

INSIDE

SOCCER

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WE CAN MAKE HISTORY, SAY FEARLESS JOEYS

**AUSSIE
HERO
JOEY
DI IORIO**

**WORLD
U/17
INSIDE**

That's the confident claim of Australia's hero of the moment, the appropriately named Joey Di Iorio, who came on as a second half substitute to score the winner in the Joeys' quarter-final against Qatar in the World U/17 Championships in New Zealand.

Australia won the game 1-0 and now we have a semi-final showdown with the USA - to be played tomorrow (Wed.) - while Brazil plays Ghana in the other semi-final.

Speaking from his hotel after the game, Di Iorio believes we can make history and go on to the Final.

"I think we have a very good chance ... even though they are a good team we can do it," he said.

"Everyone in the squad is really positive."

The Werder Bremen youngster also believed that the extra day's rest the Americans have in the lead-up to this clash should not be a problem for the Aussies.

"We are all pretty fit ... the training has been daily and high intensive so I think we will be ready come Wednesday."

Di Iorio was kept on the bench for the quarter-final due largely to a leg injury, however he is very confident that he will start the game tomorrow.

And if we qualify for the final, he hopes the Brazilians will be our opponents.

Another overseas-based Joey, libero Adrian Madeschi was feeling equally upbeat about our chances.

"Everyone's rapt ... I think we've made history haven't we?" asked the Atalanta player.

"We are all ambitious to make the final so with a bit of luck we can do it. The game against Qatar demonstrated that we could play good football.

"I strongly believe that we can

knock them off, as long as everyone puts in together.

"I am not really worried about them (the USA) having an extra day off. Each and every one of us should be 100% ready by Wednesday.

"Quite a few of these Joeys could adapt to playing in Europe in my opinion," he added.

Madeschi plays in the Primavera League for Atalanta reserves, and his side is currently top of the ladder."

The Joeys are playing the tried and true Aussie system of a 3-5-2, with Madeschi sweeping behind two central defenders (Byrnes and Goulding). The two wingbacks are Jade North and Lucas Pantelis (although Cansdell-Sherriff may be used in the semi); Shroj, Brain and Groves are the other midfielders.

Upfront will be Di Iorio and McDonald.

The two semi-finals are fascinating match-ups, with Australia and the USA - the new guard of world youth soccer - and traditional giants Brazil and Ghana in the other.

This is a golden opportunity for Australia, with the Americans' physical game suiting our style much more than the trickier Brazil and Ghana.

As the Australian team manager James Crocker said of the Joeys: "It hasn't been a pretty road - but it's been successful."

Coach Les Scheinflug - in his swansong as a national youth coach - added that the team has a point to prove.

"Everybody's excited with the victory, the players, the coaching staff, and basically, a team of supposed nobodies has gone a long way - and we're not finished yet," he said to Soccer Australia.

Turn to page 21 for a round up of the Joeys' run to the semi-finals.

PLUS: IAN RUSH, RICHARD JOHNSON, GREG BLAKE, ROBBIE MIDDLEBY, GLORY, WOMEN'S FINAL AND AUSSIES ABROAD
INSIDE SOCCER: YOUR QUALITY WEEKLY DEVOTED TO AUSTRALIAN SOCCER

Tuesday 23 November, 1999

Out of Africa

By Aidan Ormond

Mile Sterjovski can't get out of Africa! After appearing at Nigeria '99 WYC with the Young Socceroos, the Power striker has just spent two weeks in Tunisia with the Olyroos.

Australia played two games against the Tunisian U/23 side; the Olyroos won the first game 1-0 (thanks to a Danny Allsopp goal) then drew 1-1 (Curcija the scorer) in the second match, despite having Allsopp sent-off.

Coach Raul Blanco described the refereeing as 'questionable' in that second game, but striker Mile Sterjovski was more forthright.

"That was the worst game I have ever played in," he said upon his return. "The referee was blowing the whistle and giving them the foul even when we were fouled! They got a suspect penalty and every decision was going their way."

Sterjovski conceded that despite this, Tunisia is a useful side. And the conditions were better than in Nigeria when some of this squad played in the WYC earlier this year.

"We could actually brush



Power's Olyroos Mile Sterjovski (right) and Jacob Burns.

our teeth with the water!" he said.

"And I don't think the fans over there knew who we were; for all they knew we could have been a Rugby League team."

"Overall it was pretty good trip though."

And this Friday night Sterjovski believes the home ground advantage will suit Power, and is looking forward to playing against old colleague Velimir Kupresak "if I get picked."

Game two line-up:
Milosevic, Neil (c) Blatsis Nasteviski Zelic Burns Grella Bresciano Curcija (Sterjovski 65') Allsop (red card 25') Susa (Culina 65')

Game one line-up:
Didulica, Neil, Baser, Blatsis, Grella, Zelic, Salapasidis (Sterjovski 46'), Culina (Robertson 79'), Allsop (Curcija 81'), Damianos, Bresciano.

IAN RUSH: THE HUMBLE LEGEND



By Aidan Ormond

The one thing Ian Rush was quick to emphasize upon arrival in Sydney for a two-game stint with Sydney Olympic was that the game of football is a team effort. There is no place for individual deeds he said - the side comes first.

"The most important thing that I've been brought up with in English football is that you give 110% and the team wins," he said at his first media conference.

Coming from a player with his sort of record (see box on page seven) these are fine sentiments indeed, particularly in this era when some football stars enjoy a celebrity status similar to pop stars.

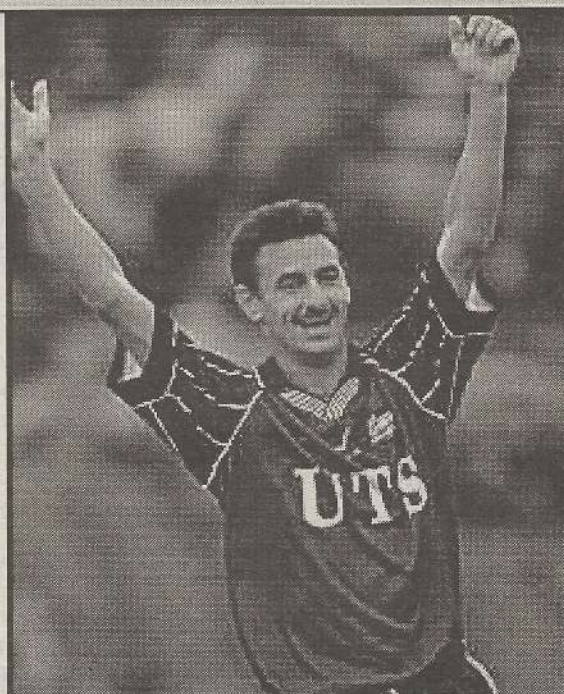
Although if you look at his upbringing, perhaps it's not surprising that Rush is charmingly unaffected by his worldwide fame.

He was brought up as one of ten children in a council house in Flint (North Wales). Mum Doris and dad Francis - who worked at the Shotton steelworks - toiled long and hard to raise the six Rush boys and their four sisters.

"I still don't forget what it was like when I was younger. It was hard. My dad had to work an extra shift to get football boots for us. As long as you remember, you stay level-headed," he said recently to Ken Gaunt of the Press Association.

"I laugh when people with two kids, washing machines, tumble dryers and all that complain about how hard they work. Mum never complained and the only help she had were her own hands. Her only break was the odd game of bingo," he added.

Speaking with me after his first press confer-



Sydney Olympic's two-game loan player, the incomparable Ian Rush.

ence in Sydney last Friday, Rush - still as lithe as he was when I saw him twelve years ago - reiterated the point about teamwork.

"I think coming from a big family you learn to appreciate things more. You learned to help each other - there was no point playing as an individual, and you can take that sort of attitude into your working life as a professional footballer."

CONTINUED ON PAGE SEVEN



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readers' forum

Great newspaper. I only discovered it by accident at the start of this NSL season, and now every Tuesday off I go to get my copy.

Well-done. Proving that Soccer in Australia can have something that actually works. Well done.

I think that the Socceroos should play together more as a team, and because we are too far away from the action, games could be played in Europe.

I mean, this is where 90% of the players are stationed anyway.

Also, they could play against quality opposition, instead of all the fighting to get a team to come all the way down here.

I know this sounds odd, I mean the Oz public should be able to see their stars play, but these games could be televised.

And if the Socceroos get a chance to build up into a formidable unit, then the crowds in Oz, plus other teams, would follow them down under.

At the moment, everyone wants the Socceroos to qualify for the upcoming World Cup, but when they only get together occasionally and play, how is that going to happen?

They need time to build into a team, get to know each others plays and build a team. Sure, they are all great players, but great individual players ...

I think the signing of Frank Farina as national coach is the best move Soccer Australia has made in eons.

I think Soccer in Australia is 'managed' by a group who wouldn't know a soccer ball if it hit them.

It is sad to think that here in Newcastle, we used to get 30,000 to watch KB United play. The Newcastle Knights get that many, but the Breakers can only get 7,000 die hard fans (of which I am one).

Maybe if Soccer was played more on the TV, like league games, people would get interested in it and start supporting their local teams.

Oh, I just saw your bit in last week's S-News about the Stallions Credit Card. Hmmm. What about a Breakers card?? HANG ON!!! My credit card is like that. I mean, I have been broke since I got it. Keep up the great work on the newspaper.

Ken Woodward
E-mail

Following the Socceroos training session at the MCG on Tuesday morning, my eight-year-old son and I were fortunate enough to meet star striker Mark Viduka.

Although having finished his training by the time we arrived, Mark came out of the dressing rooms especially to meet us, upon hearing that there were two Celtic supporters outside.

Although he was immediately swamped by the media, he initially ignored them in order to give us some time.

He signed photos, shirts, posters, and autograph books and posed for numerous photos - all happily and without any hesitation. In fact he appeared flattered that we were making such a fuss of him.

My son, Stephen, proudly wears the Hoops with the name and number "Viduka 36" on the back and Mark expressed his surprise when Stephen turned round to show him.

He was also amazed at seeing my copy of the *Celtic View* (with Viduka's poster in the centre) - commenting that he "couldn't believe that we got the View out here!"

Despite the attentions of the media, Mark answered all my questions before consenting to further interviews. Although we didn't have time for an in-depth discussion, Mark told me he was now well settled in Glasgow and happy with John Barnes as coach.

He was also happy to be back in Melbourne and was looking forward to the Brazil match the following night.

Anyone who watched this match would have seen a world class performance from a world class player, clearly enjoying playing in front of his hometown crowd.

Over a number of years I have met many top international and world class footballers but never have I met a player who appeared as interested and genuine as Mark Viduka.

Not only is he a great player, he is also a great ambassador for both Australia and Celtic.

David Paton
E-mail

MORE LETTERS ON PAGE EIGHT



GREG BLAKE

C7 SOCCER
COMMENTATOR



You can question his tactics and selections - ah, there's a budding national team coach in all of us - but you couldn't fault Frank Farina's performance as the Socceroos' media front-man.

Given the various controversies that dogged his first series as Australia's senior coach, I thought Farina handled himself brilliantly in public.

Farina was cool, assured, articulate - dignified even - and very diplomatic under the exceptionally trying circumstances, particularly regarding the problematical trio of Harry Kewell, Mark Bosnich and Ned Zelic.

Despite a baptism of fire Farina, the new public face of the Socceroos, came through with the aplomb of a seasoned veteran.

And right or wrong he stuck to his guns, as Zelic will probably testify.

God bless Melbourne's obsession with sport. After so many hiccups it was wonderful to round off the much-anticipated but particularly troubled two-match Brazilian tour with an MCG classic.

Lovely night, four goals, a couple of fierce stoushes - just to show they weren't mucking about - and near on 80,000 fans on hand to light up the multi storey sports arena. Probably the only truly pleasant memory from the series, although two obvious conclusions can be drawn from the masses of fans who flocked to the MCG

Sure, the game was free.

But that in itself suggests that Melbourne fans will come out in their droves if the game itself doesn't hit the wallet too hard.

Ticket pricing is a tough one for the promoters, but if the price is comfortable - and with pre-sales for the MCG game at around a mere 7,000, initially it probably wasn't - soccer will fill the stadium every time.

That said, now the conundrum for Carlton, South Melbourne or the Knights is how to tap a clearly dormant soccer market in Victoria.

Potential fans of the game are obviously there - the last three MCG 'events' have averaged over 70,000 at the gate - but how the heck can we lure them into taking an interest in the NSL?

With all the authority of a player who looked like he'd done it all before, Paul Okon stepped into the Socceroo captaincy stylishly and was superb as Australia's primary playmaker at the MCG against Brazil.

Ned who?

The question has been posed all-too-rarely for my liking, but given the calibre of some of the home-grown talent given a run in the Socceroo squad for the Brazil series, why is Con Boutsianis still apparently completely ignored?

Not even mentioned as a contender, 'Boutsi' has been in outstanding touch for Perth Glory since the latter half of last season.

A superb dead ball specialist, prolific goalscorer and still possessed with that unorthodox and instinctive ability to turn games on his own, the powers that be have got to have another look at Boutsianis.

See, told you there's a budding

national coach in all of us.

Terrific to see Sean Babic finding some form again under Eddie Krncevic at Marconi.

The tenacious little striker has struggled a bit in recent seasons, losing some time through injury and spending plenty of last season playing cameos roles, often off the bench.

But Babic is currently playing like somebody lit a fire under him and it's good to see such a terrific little bloke back to his sparkling best.

His approach to the game is a joy.

And on the gun goalscorers, how's the form of Brisbane smokey Paul Foster, who is potentially the most remarkable rabbit John Kosmina has pulled out of his hat this season.

After a mere eight career goals in his previous 78 NSL matches the four-club journeyman and veteran had jagged six in six games for the Strikers going into last weekend.

Another at Sydney United last Sunday would hand the 31-year-old an equal league record of goalscoring in consecutive NSL games, which is currently held by Damian Mori.

At the other end of the scale it's hard to fathom Northern Spirit's inability to kick-start its offence, given the cluster of potential talent on the roster.

After seven rounds Spirit were ranked dead last on goals scored this season despite a combined total of some 277 career NSL goals shared between Robbie Slater, Graham Arnold, David Seal, Abbas Saad and Matt Bingley.

The drought surely can't last.

The calls for a second NSL side to come out of Perth are getting louder and given the reactive nature of Soccer Australia - you know, the 'gee it's working well in so-and-so let's plonk another club there' mentality - you'd imagine the concept has at least come under consideration.

You don't need me to tell you that Perth Glory clearly know the market place exceptionally well and they certainly hope nothing will come of the rumours, at least not yet.

"At this point it (the introduction of a second WA team) would not enhance the sport in any way, shape or form," insists Perth GM Roger Lefort.

"Further down the line maybe, but let the demand shape the formation of the league and right now it's more critical to build on the success of Perth Glory."

The unlikely success story of Ange Postecoglou, the coach, continues. Not content with two national titles at South Melbourne and his more recent reward of involvement with the national team for the Brazil games Postecoglou, at just 34 years of age, is one game from becoming the longest-serving NSL coach in South's club history.

His 102nd game in charge of the club, which will take him past the mark of 101 games previously set by John Margaritis, is due this weekend when South Melbourne goes to Brisbane for the blockbuster against the Strikers. Top coach, top bloke - well done.

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ROBBIE MIDDLEBY

'My Socceroo ambitions'

It was none other than Craig Johnston, the former Liverpool star, who spotted the talents of Auckland Kingz striker Robbie Middleby in a 1990 national U/14 championship.

In fact, it was ironic that Middleby was even drawn to the world game. He broke two collarbones as a schoolboy rugby league star at the age of twelve, which helped guide him towards a career in Soccer.

After receiving rave reviews as Mark Viduka's striking partner at the 1995 W.Y.C. in Qatar, Middleby has experienced the highs and lows of professional football but at 24, time is still on his side.

Following a three-year spell in Germany at Bayer Uerdingen, Middleby is determined to justify Wynton Rufer's faith in bringing him back to Australasia to carry the hopes of the Football Kingz.

In this thought-provoking article with Roger Sleeman, Middleby discusses the highlights and disappointments of his European experience, life with the Kingz and his future aspirations in football.

ROGER SLEEMAN: After a distinguished career as a youth player, especially in the W.Y.C. in Qatar, your career has not reached the expected heights many people believed you were capable. Can you explain?

ROBBIE MIDDLEBY

It was all happening for me at youth level but the biggest problem I had after Qatar was telling European clubs that my parents and grandparents were Australian born. The story is familiar and if you ask players like Brad Maloney who should've been playing in Europe years ago, that precious work visa is the key to a successful career.

After the WYC, several English clubs, including Sheffield Wednesday and Aston Villa approached me, but despite their assurances that the work visa wasn't a problem, I still didn't get a contract.

R.S. There were many success stories after the WYC '95, notably your playing partner Mark Viduka. What does it take to step up from youth to senior level?

R.M. There's no doubting the class of Mark Viduka, his display against Brazil in Melbourne was a revelation. However many people might forget that I provided four of the five goals he scored in Qatar, but in football it's often only the goalscorers who are remembered.

Daniel Ortega, Dani and Paolo Wanchope were also players who became household names after WYC '95, and one must admire their achievements.

In Qatar I also received my share of press and my speed was compared with Marc Overmars.

After the tournament, I heard that Borussia Dortmund was interested in signing Viduka and I but it didn't go any further than a casual discussion.

Perhaps you make your own luck by your performances on the park but even some of the greatest professionals will tell you how hard it was in the beginning.

Naturally I grabbed the chance without realizing the financial consequences because my share of the transfer was fairly small.

Robbie Middleby

Craig Johnston will vouch for that.

R.S. Can you relate your experiences at Bayer Uerdingen?

R.M. After failing to gain a work

permit to play at Maastricht in Holland at the end of 1995, my transfer from Wollongong to Uerdingen was completed in the latter stages of the 1995/96 Bundesliga season.



Returned Aussie Robbie Middleby, seen here playing for the Kingz against Carlton.

I'd been staying with my agent for a couple of months - waiting for the snow to go - and after a few trials with different clubs, I was offered a three-year contract with Uerdingen.

Naturally I grabbed the chance without realizing the financial consequences because my share of the transfer was fairly small.

Also by committing myself to a three-year contract, I also restricted my marketability and mobility.

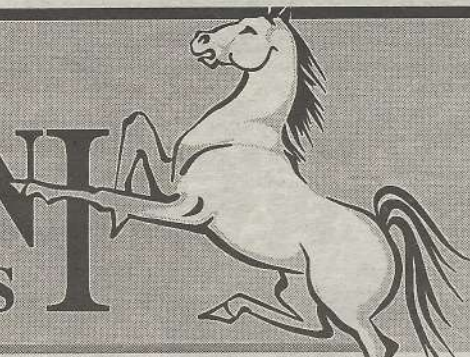
At the end of that season Uerdingen was relegated to the second division and when your playing in a lower division you're not noticed too much.

CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT

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PERTH GLORY

THE BEST IS YET TO COME?

burst of "told you so" - to which Perth Glory's true believers would probably be most entitled - the foresighted nature of the club is such that they acknowledge that all the links in the NSL chain must be strong.

Perth openly welcomes those NSL clubs who choose to try and emulate Glory's remarkable formula for success.

"We like to think that the whole national soccer league can lift to another level," says long-time Glory general manager, Roger Lefort.

"It's very flattering to us when that happens (that clubs try to copy Perth's blueprint) but the most important thing is that I'd rather say 'can I help you?'"

That there are few more daunting tasks than taking on AFL power in an AFL town and succeeding perhaps puts the best perspective on Perth's achievements.

As co-owner Nick Tana said recently: "We are now a mainstream (sporting)

Last week Greg Blake asked the question: is Sydney the epicentre of Australian Soccer? This week he looks at what many think is the heart and soul of the modern Australian game ... Perth. Denied national representation for nearly twenty years of NSL - the tyranny of distance was one of a number of reasons cited - the western capital has taken to NSL football like no other. And on the eve of the new millennium, the revolution is showing no signs of abating ...

Former National Soccer League chairman, the late Sam Papasavas, was by no means out on his own with his once dismissive opinion of the possibility of a Western Australian-based club joining the competition.

"What could Perth possibly offer the NSL?" was his stock retort to the question of a WA-based club.

It was an opinion shared by most of the then Australian Soccer Federation power-brokers of the day, most of whom scratched their head quizzically, before dropping any speculation about genuine Australia-wide league expansion straight into the too-hard bin on several occasions in the decade before Perth Glory strode dramatically onto the scene.

The somewhat less-than-visionary outlook was apparently based on the restrictive travel times, associated costs and the mere fact that if the NSL hadn't produced big box office in the established eastern soccer states, one could hardly expect Perth to prove the exception, could one?

That is why the same season debuts of Perth and Collingwood in the league is still such a defining yet still almost unrecognised moment in the history of the domestic competition.

Struggling to cope with a brave new soccer world ailing Heidelberg United, booted out of the league two years before, had reinvented itself under the banner of AFL giants Collingwood and over 13,000 turned out for that club's first game.

On the same afternoon just over 9,000 watched Perth get trounced by Sydney Olympic on their home debut, although the smarties dismissed the impressive opening day crowd as mere curiosity seekers.

By season's end 1996/97 Collingwood's flimsy framework had collapsed and what had become a comedic farce thankfully ended as a one-season blot on the game.

In contrast, Perth ended the year with a home average in excess of a staggering 14,000, and now three years down the track and Glory is the domestic competition yardstick, the club others must measure their - at least off-field - success to ensure as glowing a future into the new millennium.

That is why the more astute clubs from the eastern states are sending their people to Perth on fact-finding missions, and curiously enough Glory's power-brokers are more than happy to oblige.

Rather than indulge in a resounding



club."

At 34 and a veteran of six NSL clubs and 277 NSL games, Tony Franken is well positioned to appraise Perth, as he did in last week's 'Inside Soccer'.

"In Sydney soccer was on the back burner," he told editor, Aidan Ormond.

"There is no doubt that the media (exposure) has been a huge contributing factor in our success and really you couldn't put a dollar value on it."

"But on Perth it is on par with other sports.

"It's not unusual to be recognised in the street."

That instant recognition is probably the most accurate litmus test of the club's home-town success and Lefort can reel off the increasingly frequent examples of such events. Although, he insists, none of it has come about by accident.

Close-season Brisbane import Kasey Wehrman has been overwhelmed by the club's local profile.

time, there are stickers on the backs of cars...

"I mean the players do a lot of work towards that.

"It is in the player's contracts that they must do a minimum of six hours promotional work for the club each week."

According to Lefort that promotional work is all part of the club's open door publicity policy.

"It is club policy that we are open, honest and accessible with the media," he said.

"We encourage the players and the coach to talk to the

media and we try to work as closely as possible with the media.

"We try to tell everybody the same things at the same time to ensure that it does not appear that we favour anyone.

"There is no doubt that the media (exposure) has been a huge contributing factor in our success and really you couldn't put a dollar value on it.

"Not that we didn't have to work on it.

"If you look at the exposure through the 'West Australian' (Perth's major daily, which runs an eight-page soccer lift-out

every Monday morning, if you don't mind), we had to work at that.

"But we allow the journos to come away with us and we allow them into the dressing rooms.

"With the media we think it is very important to always work with them."

Through such deliberate policies the club has cemented several regular niche spots on various radio stations and also developed unlikely allies for the code itself.

According to Lefort, senior 'Western Australian' editor Paul Murray is a genuine convert who now "loves the club and loves the atmosphere at games".

So much so that Glory has requested that Murray address the next meeting of NSL general managers to give other clubs some insight into working with the media - at the Perth Glory's expense.

"We are quite sincere about helping the other clubs in any way, if we can," he explained.

While Perth the city has been a bit of a culture shock to former South Melbourne grand final hero Con Boutsianis, he too has been astounded by the local interest in the club.

"Perth," he says, "is the most laid-back city in the country."

"Everything is slower over here and you can really come here just to unwind.

"But (as far as football is concerned) the move has worked out really well for me.

"Just playing in front of 16,000 people every other weekend is something you really look forward to."

Wehrman says he, too, was initially overwhelmed by the size and passion of the crowd at Perth Oval on game day.

"Just the way they pack it in, as they say, if you leave your seat someone else is entitled to grab it," he enthused.

"With the shed all singing, it was great."

Even Lefort is still slightly surprised at just how well the Perth public have embraced the club.

Before Perth had kicked a ball in anger the club itself had said publicly that it had hoped for around a 7,000 average gate to home games.

CONTINUED PAGE EIGHT

IAN RUSH

The Humble Legend continued



"We all need a lucky break and I took mine."
Ian Rush on his initial time at Liverpool.

Little wonder that Rush's first big transfer - from Chester to Liverpool for 300,000 pounds in 1980 scared him.

"Yeah, I didn't think I was good enough. But after a while, about a month, I realized that I was as good as any of them.

"Then it's just a matter of getting your confidence, and I got a break which everyone needs. We all need a lucky break and I took it.

"From there I went from strength to strength."

After doing it all in the English league (including European Cup success in

DID YOU KNOW?

Ian Rush scored 346 goals in League and Cup. His achievements include League title medals (five), League Cups (five), Charity Shield (five), FA Cups (three) plus the European Cup in 1984, the same year he scored 48 goals and was voted Player of the Year by both the PFA and Football Writers. He scored five goals in FA Cup Finals. Rush has 73 Welsh caps and scored 28 goals for his country.

1984), he made the move in May 1987 to Juventus transferring for 3.2 million pounds.

Living in a mansion with his family in Turin afforded him an even more luxurious lifestyle than he had in England.

He was afforded personal staff at his residence and a massive salary. Yet the working class lad from North Wales did not settle.

On the field and his pre-season flur-

ry of goals (I saw him score four in one game) may have hoisted him on his own petard.

"Yeah I scored so frequently in the pre-season that teams were very wary. After that pre-season everyone in Serie A then just wanted to stop me from scoring, just like they want to here in my two games for Sydney Olympic."

He rated Franco Baresi as one of the toughest defenders he came up against in the Serie A.

Yet Juve's system of playing Rush as virtually a lone striker (the sight of him doing endless 'doggies' across the front line brought tears to the eyes of those who knew what he could do) may well have contributed to this lean patch for Rush.

He needed no cajoling to return to Anfield a year later and he picked up the pieces of his English career as if he had never left.

Goals in cup finals and the league followed with almost monotonous regularity in what was a golden era for the Reds of Liverpool, before another side in red, Man Utd, began their dominance of domestic and later European football.

A memorable two goals from Rush against cross-town rivals Everton, after coming on as a sub under an injury cloud, was one of my highlights. Liverpool won that 1989 FA Cup 3-2.

He even scored against my childhood team Sunderland, breaking Geordie hearts as Liverpool won the 1992 FA Cup.

As Robbie Fowler, an Ian Rush prodigy, later said. "Anyone who doesn't learn from Ian Rush needs shooting."

Following his final game for Liverpool (where he scored) Rush's heartfelt statement said it all. "See this shirt - I'm keeping it because it will be one of my most treasured possessions. It's only just sinking in that it's all over for me as a Liverpool player."

After his career at Liverpool he spent short spells at Leeds, Newcastle, Sheffield United (on loan) and as a player/coach at Wrexham.

At Leeds in 1996 there was much talk about his partnership with African sensation Tony Yeboah, yet there was another sensation waiting in the wings. Rush saw a young Aussie called Harry Kewell; and he was impressed.

"I knew he (Kewell) was going to be a good player and the Leeds manager at the time, Howard Wilkinson, rated him very highly.

"In fact," said Rush, "he played him in every game of the pre-season tour that year, playing left back or left mid-field.

"Harry always got forward to score goals and I think Howard Wilkinson had high hopes for him then.

"I think that showed how good Howard Wilkinson's

youth development was back then, he got them at an early age and really developed them well.

"But you still have to do it yourself and in fairness to Harry Kewell, he has gone on to do it for himself.

"So it's not just being developed by a club as a player, you've still got to do it yourself.

"Still there is not just Harry Kewell.

The club is producing so many good young players."

Ironically, the whole Harry Kewell 'club-v-country' saga may have been handled differently by Leeds if things had worked out for Rush at Leeds.

He was in the frame for a coaching position at the club, but when Wilkinson left (he is currently a technical director for the English FA) Rush's plans for coaching at the Yorkshire club also



Ian Rush during the golden era for Liverpool.



Harry Kewell. Could have had Rush as his manager.

went out the door.

With coaching very much on the agenda in the future, this may be one of the last times to see the UK's most predatory striker of the last two decades.

Rush is not ready to give up playing just yet, but as the 38-year-old says, "I'll know when it's time."

He has done his coaching badge over the Summer, has been asked by a number of English Premier clubs to work with their strikers and, in conjunction with a company called Proactive, will be involved in the Ian Rush Finishing Schools. These schools will be opening soon.

Ian Rush MBE. A legend of the modern game who has never forgotten his roots. See him in Australia while you can.

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PERTH GLORY

Continued

CONTINUED FROM PAGE SIX

"No, I don't think we ever expected these numbers," he said.

"No, maybe 6,000 to 10,000, although I knew from the work done in the past (with representative games) that if there was a good game on that there was a core support of maybe 10,000 or more.

"That is if you could appeal to them, and we obviously did appeal to them.

"Again, it didn't happen by accident.

"We brought in professionals with different areas of expertise, we invested very heavily and we deliberately spent plenty of time developing the club.

"Even down to being completely paranoid about the colours and the logo because we wanted to ensure that any appeal we had was broad.

"We maintain a healthy respect and working relationship with the (AFL) Dockers and Eagles and the (NBL) Wildcats and I believe now we are looked at by the general public and the media as being right up there with football."

Wehrman (above) believes success with Glory is a tremendous personal challenge and the club has presented him with an opportunity to rein-vigorate his career."



"I wasn't really getting the best out of myself (at Brisbane)," he said.

"Coming to Perth has been a good move.

"There is a great atmosphere at the club and being fully professional we're training all the time and overall the set-up is much better than any I've experienced."

Going into the club's fourth NSL year Lefort believes that Glory is past the "danger years" of a young club, although it is critical that the club maintains its momentum.

The immediate goals are moving to the purpose-built soccer venue promised by the state government and having a genuine crack at that elusive NSL title.

"But everyone wants to win the championship and we want to as well," he told Inside Soccer.

"But we don't want to do it at the expense of other things.

"We've got to show that every year we are still improving.

"We should never become complacent or arrogant.

"We are still the people's club and we will only succeed if we work with the supporters all the way through."

Extraordinary as it may seem to those of us who have peered across the Nullabor in wonder at the achievements of this club that very few wanted thus far, it is quite possible that the best is yet to come.

ROBBIE MIDDLEBY

Continued

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FIVE

R.S. As a youth player you were a regular goalscorer, yet in your three seasons at Uerdingen you only scored five goals. Are you happy to play the role of provider rather than finisher?

R.M. For much of my career at Uerdingen I played as a wingback because the German coaches saw my speed as being invaluable in tracking players, breaking down opponents' attacks, as well as getting forward to support the strikers or creating attacks from our second third.

I suppose the world loves a goalscorer but I'm more than happy to lay the ball off for other players if it means goals are scored.

R.S. Before you left Uerdingen, you had an opportunity to sign with Munchen 1860. Why didn't you accept the offer?

R.M. It was basically a situation where I'd had over three years in Germany, and it was often the case of whether the coach liked you as to how you were treated, or whether your style fitted into the team tactics.

I'd seen how Paul Agostino had struggled to receive recognition at the club despite some excellent performances. Therefore when Wynton Rufer offered me a one-year contract I thought it was a good opportunity to come back and play in the NSL, and prove to the Australian public I had benefited from my overseas experience and had something to offer local football.

R.S. The Kingz' form this season has been inconsistent to say the least. What is the answer to this problem?



R.M. Against Newcastle and Sydney Olympic we kept our shape to record very good results and our miraculous recovery to secure the 3-3 draw in the first match against Wollongong seemed to be a turning point.

However, we dropped our guard against Wollongong last week and on Friday night against Northern Spirit we just didn't take advantage of the numerous chances in front of goal.

We deserved at least to share the points with the Spirit.

R.S. It seems that whenever you're playing up in the opponents' defensive third and putting pressure on your fullback, the Kingz look dangerous in attack. Is there a message for the coaching staff to use you as an attacking force rather than as a wingback, as you played for most of the first half against the Spirit?

R.M. I follow the coach's instructions but if I can contribute more to help the team score more goals, that pressing role in attack suits me fine. The bottom line is we must score more goals to take some of the pressure off our defence.

R.S. What are your plans beyond this season?

R.M. My biggest ambition is to show I'm good enough to be selected in the Socceroo squad to tour Chile in March and there's also the possibility of going overseas again.

After all I'd like to think twenty four is still a young age so I'd like to enjoy a successful career in the game at the highest level for a few more years to come.

AUSSIE FANS UNITE

Aussie fans, genuinely sick of touring sides garnering better and more vocal support when they play the Socceroos, are doing something about it.

The G&G (Green and Gold) Army is a group of passionate Australian soccer fans sick of home crowds cheering more for the opposition than for the Socceroos.

G&G Army spokesman, Tony Ising, said the group was formed to provide a supportive atmosphere for Australia's national team, as well as provide an outlet for hoards of frustrated soccer fans who until now have had no united voice.

"At the MCG against Manchester United, I felt like I was the only one cheering the Socceroos," Ising said.

"I was cheering myself hoarse! I knew that wasn't the case, and that many others were sitting in the crowd feeling the same way. It's just that we weren't sitting together joining forces in a united effort.

"The same thing happened in the match at Olympic Park against Chile, and against Japan at Bob Jane Stadium, in fact anywhere the Socceroos turn out. And quite frankly I'm sick of it. Visiting teams buy tickets in blocks. They all sit together and out-sing the Aussie crowds.

"We want to silence opposing fans and give our heroes the incentive to play above themselves, and not feel like they are playing in another country."

"The only time we've ever captured the passion for Australian soccer in Melbourne is for the World Cup Qualifier against Iran. The G&G Army aims to recreate that kind of atmosphere at every Socceroo match".

The group already has attracted a great deal of interest from all over Australia, with dozens of emails coming from most major cities.

Ising added he hoped Soccer Australia or the promoters could organise a block of tickets so they can sit together.

It would good that each city organises its own G&G Army. "We also want to foster a positive atmosphere for soccer supporters. Hooliganism is not tolerated in any form. We want to make soccer a positive experience for all fans.

"With an important international at the 'G' it pretty much takes care itself. We need to recreate that for every national team - men and women - wherever we play.

"The important thing is to get Australians supporting Australians," said Ising to Inside Soccer.

Interested supporters can contact the G&G Army by email: ggarmy@hotmail.com.

For more information, contact Tony Ising on (03) 9929 0515 b/h (03) 9525 7217 a/h, or 0418 575 925.

READERS' FORUM Continued

Was it a home international, I'm not sure? Fans from Northern Spirit, Wollongong Wolves, Perth Glory, Newcastle Breakers and Marconi Stallions went to Stadium Australia for game one of the Brazil tour.

Were we there to cause trouble? NO. Were we there to cheer on the boys? YES.

Firstly we are asked to move to the other side of the stadium. This did not worry some fans but it left a very nasty taste in my mouth. WHY?

Some of us had bought tickets 8-10 weeks ago only to be told we had to move to accommodate fans who got free tickets the day before, and were following the Brazilians, not the mighty green and gold.

Then it happened: no support for Australia. What's happening? So the group sings "Are we in Sydney or Sao Paulo." Well it seemed to feel this way.

We name a great side - Bosnich, Zelic, Okon, Moore. Add Vidmar, Tiatto, Skoko, and Agostino - that's one hell of a side.

Let's look at what's happening here. Firstly Socceroo strips versus Brazil - 20 to

1 at least with kids preferring the gold of the Samba kings to the green and gold of the local constabulary.

Group support for Australia? Virtually non-existent. Brazil? An entire bay.

Soccer Australia marketing? A joke. Is this not a great opportunity to promote the national league.

Lee Steerey hit the nail on the head,

I had the same idea - Marconi v Northern Spirit - one hell of a support game and in Melbourne; Carlton v Oceania champions South Melbourne.

The brochures handed out promoting the league were a start but how many fans did they really expect to turn up at North Sydney or

Bossley Park this weekend?

Soccer Australia needs to instill local soccer into people's minds. Free tickets to the NSL would have been the perfect opportunity to do so.

Anyway, let's wave flags, wear our colours and support our team.

GO YOU MIGHTY SOCCEROOS!!!!

Scott Daly
E-mail



Sydney or Sao Paulo? Fans at Stadium Australia in the Brazil section.



From Weston to Watford ... and back



Welcome to the first interview at INSIDE SOCCER by Melbourne's Radio stars THE FOUR DIEGOS. This week on Guest of the Week they have a man who is not only cutting the opposition to pieces with his marauding midfield displays this season in the English premiership with Watford, but also he recently made his long-awaited debut in the Green and Gold, with Frank Farina's Socceroos against Brazil. Please a big FOUR DIEGOS and INSIDE SOCCER welcome to new Socceroo and Watford star midfielder ...

Richard Johnson.

Diegos: "Congratulations on your Socceroo call up and welcome back home. You haven't spent a lot of time in Australia in the last eight years whilst trying to forge your career with Watford."

- On your arrival in Sydney what was it that made you absolutely certain that you were back home? Was it the

ing the big overseas deal. You instead have got your chance with the Socceroos by playing well for a club newly promoted to the high profile English premiership.

In this respect were you surprised by your call up?"

Johnson: "It was a hell of a surprise to me. I left Australia when I was 16 years old, I'm now 25 and this was my first Socceroo call up."

I can't tell you how happy and surprised I was to be included in the squad.

I'd spoken to Frank over the phone a few times and he sounded very keen so I knew that I would be in with a chance."

Diegos: "The flamboyant Elton John is club chairman of Watford."

Do you ever get the chance to hang out with him and has he ever belted out a few bars of 'Crocodile Rock' on the baby grand in the change rooms prior to the game to fire up the boys?"

Johnson: "Elton actually gets to a few of our games but he doesn't like performing for us at all. He probably finds it to difficult to be heard over the lads singing the club's theme song."

Diegos: "You have been described as a 'Box-to-Box' type player. Like many Aussie sports people, you like to run, fight and

attack."

Firstly how's the good old Aussie trash talk coming along and did the Brazilians cop a bit of sledging and how do you think your style will suit the international game?"

Johnson: "Frank sat me down and told me that he didn't want me to change my game."

He said that he wanted me to play just as I have been back in England. So I'll always put in one hundred percent and if the tackle is on I'll try to win the ball and give it to someone who can play."

Diegos: "Did Frank talk at all about how the team was going to approach the Ronaldo threat and were the boys disappointed when it was announced that he wasn't going to

play?"

Johnson: "No we didn't get far. He went home before we got a chance to discuss the Ronaldo tactics. No-one really knew what had been going on in the other camp."

I think a few of the boys were pretty disappointed that he didn't play. It ended up being a bit of a farce I think."

Diegos: "A number of weeks ago Watford traveled to Old Trafford to play the awesome Manchester United. You scored a great goal in a comfortable victory for United."

Did you have mixed feelings about the goal - happy that you scored but worried that you could've made them more angry?"

Johnson: "I wanted to run out of the stadium at the time because we were 4-0 down. I didn't celebrate too much, just a clenched fist."

We played well for the first 40 minutes but they just killed us off with three goals in the last five minutes of the first half."

I was pretty pleased with the goal considering it was on my left foot."

Diegos: "Watford manager, Graham Taylor was the much maligned manager of the England team in the



Richard Johnson in game one of the Brazil tour at Stadium Australia

mention the word turnip in his presence?"

Johnson: "He sure did cop a lot of stick at the time. We only call him that behind his back, very quietly I might add."

Graham has been a great manager for Watford; he's done wonderful things to turn the club around."

When he came back five years ago he set himself a five year plan to get Watford back in to the Premier League and he's done it two years ahead of schedule, so he must be doing something right."

Diegos: "Thanks Richard. It's great linking up with one of Elton John's mates. Adios Amigo"

Johnson: "Thanks Diegos. I'm surprised you haven't met him. You guys would easily get an invite to one of his parties with the gear you wear. Adios Amigos"

The Four Diegos' are radio celebrities and soccer scribes on Melbourne's Stereo 97.4 FM

Saturday 10 am - 12 mid day

E-Mail 'The Diegos' on FourDiegos@bigpond.com

Until next time Adios Amigos!

early 90's. Towards the end of his reign the English tabloids actually started to refer to him as 'Turnip-head'.

What's he like as a manager and do any of the Watford boys ever dare

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Richard Johnson scored the winner in the 1988 Bill Turner Cup Final for playing for St Peters ASC Maitland against Figtree High.

It was a beautiful goal, a typical long range shot that deceived the keeper, thus winning the Cup 1-0 for his school with just minutes left on the clock.

Ironically, both these teams were in the same Cup Final this year.

The coach of Richard Johnson's team in 1988, Jim Mate, who still teaches at the school says Watford's Socceroo is very down to earth and

has not changed a bit. Johnson's father Roy (of British origin) was a good player as well, having being involved with local Newcastle side Weston Bears. Mate added that at the age of 12 the new Socceroo was talking about wanting to represent Australia. He felt the only way to get noticed was to go overseas. "He had a burning ambition," said Mate.

Johnson is also friends with the Johns brothers (Rugby League players based in Newcastle), and caught up with them when they toured Great Britain playing for the Kangaroos.

Union stop work meeting at the airport? Was it the Republicans and the Monarchists beating each other with placards in the street or was it the Aussies breaking down the doors at SOCOG trying to get more Olympic tickets?"

Johnson: "So many to choose from, I think I'll go for the last one. The thing that made me absolutely certain was seeing the Sydney Harbour Bridge."

You know when you see that thing that you are well and truly home. It's a great feeling being back, I haven't been back for a while."

Diegos: "Most Aussie soccer players attempt to make a name for themselves with the Socceroos or one of the Aussie under-age teams before clinch-

NSL round eight

'The round Rushy played'



Bulldog, it's good to have you back!

Team of the week is Northern Spirit after their spirited (!) 3-2 home win over the Kingz. Robbie Slater's return certainly was felt. Their fans deserve a mention too for never stopping cheering and singing for the bottom-placed side. Now that's support.

NSL TOP SCORERS:

PAUL FOSTER (Strikers) 6
 ZELJKO BABIC (Stallions) 5
 CON BOUTSIANIS (Glory) 5
 JOEL GRIFFITHS (Power) 5
 DANIEL WATKINS (Cosmos) 5
 Cumulative attendances after round eight
 99/00: 362, 239
 98/99: 364, 110

So how many goals do you think Ian Rush could score if he stayed on till the end of the season? He opened his Australian account on the weekend in Olympic's 2-1 win over Marconi. Rush has one more game, at home to Force in two weeks.



Rushy, it's an honour just having you here.

Round nine preview

Another intriguing set of matches is in store for Australian soccer fans in round nine of the NSL this weekend.

For Queenslanders there is no better place to be than Suncorp stadium as the pretenders to the throne - current league leaders Brisbane Strikers - meet the back-to-back champions South Melbourne.

Brisbane could confidently expect a crowd of anything up to 9,000 for this titanic clash. The home side - full of vim and vigour - takes on a South Melbourne that has, in the words of its industrious coach Ange Postecoglou, not yet reached a level of consistency they are accustomed to.

Last weekend's home draw with Cosmos, while saying more about Canberra's renewed strength rather than South Melbourne's inability to finish off opponents, is still a bit of a worry.

Yet the return of Goran Lozanovski is a huge boost, and together with the feisty Jim Tsekini, there is enough class in the South side to reasonably expect at least a point for the underachieving South.

A win for Strikers could see them open up a significant lead over the chasing pack of Olympic, Carlton and Wollongong.

The way they are playing Strikers deserve 15,000 regularly.

On Friday night the rejuvenated Parramatta Power take on Sydney United in the west derby. As we all know the two clubs have developed a 'history', but putting all that petty stuff aside, Power are playing some lovely football of late.

And in Joel Griffiths they have a player who is knocking on the door of Olyroo selection. Mile Sterjovski and Jacob Burns will also be back to boost the Power.

The stumbling block will be experienced Sydney United defender Vella Kupresak. The 'indefatigable one' knows Power's strikers very well, yet the Pumas lack a little class around the park.

And now that Parramatta has a side that, in the words of assistant coach Lawrie McKinna is "starting to realise that you have to work hard if you want success", expect a top drawer encounter.

Parra should see an even bigger crowd that the 6,000 plus they saw at their last home game.

On Sunday they will be packed to the rafters at Perth Oval to see the top six encounter between Glory and Carlton. The Blues, coming off an embarrassing home loss last week, surely could not play any worse than that.

Lubo Lapsansky will miss the game after his somewhat controversial sending off, but Glory, following their 6-1 drubbing of Melbourne Knights will be keen to inflict more pain on a Victorian side.

Another attractive fixture is the Marconi v Wolves game in Sydney. The way Wollongong is playing anything could happen - while for the Stallions Care and Babic are showing some wonderful form.

All in all, some great prospects nationwide for this next round. And here's an idea. Take a friend to a game. If we all did that our game would surely benefit.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK:

"His balls have been magnificent in this last ten minutes - has he got another one up his sleeve?"

Peter Wilkins during the ABC game Strikers v Carlton. Enough said.

"Up until now this team has played like a bunch of lambs. From now on, they will be playing like bull terriers."

Vlado 'The Moose' Vanis. New Knights coach and animal lover.

"That's if I play Ian Rush"

Branko Culina at the Ian Rush media conference. It got a laugh.

"I would have broken his left foot in half if I was playing."

'Lethal' Lee Sterrey quoted on the Football Cavalier site (<http://www.alphalink.com.au/~cbeattie/>) saying what he would have done if he was a Breakers defender.

"He's the biggest all-time goose!"

Paul 'Wadey' Wade playing up to the cameras over the Ned Zelic walkout.

"What am I doing here?"

Ned Zelic's seemingly disoriented at Melbourne Airport.

"Con has refereed us four times in the last eight games. Am I married to him? I don't see my wife as often as I see Con. I think he is a lovely boy, but I don't think he can referee...someone else can have him for God's sake." Zoran Matic in fine form post game on Friday.

"I didn't commit suicide last year, so I'm not going to commit suicide this year."

The very alive Breakers coach Lee Sterrey.

	(Overall)								(Home)						(Away)					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
BRISBANE STRIKERS	8	5	3	0	12	6	18	6	2	2	0	8	5	3	1	0	4	1		
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	8	5	2	1	13	6	17	7	1	2	1	6	6	4	0	0	7	0		
CARLTON	8	4	3	1	14	6	15	8	2	1	1	6	5	2	2	0	8	1		
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	8	4	3	1	17	13	15	4	3	0	1	7	5	1	3	0	10	8		
MARCONI STALLIONS	8	4	2	2	13	13	14	0	2	0	1	3	4	2	2	1	10	9		
PERTH GLORY	8	3	3	2	16	10	12	6	1	2	1	10	6	2	1	1	6	4		
South Melbourne	8	3	2	3	12	8	11	4	3	1	0	10	2	0	1	3	2	6		
Canberra Cosmos	8	3	2	3	12	9	11	3	2	1	2	7	3	1	1	1	5	6		
Parramatta Power	8	3	2	3	14	13	11	1	2	2	1	9	7	1	0	2	5	6		
Football Kingz	8	2	2	4	12	17	8	-5	1	1	2	6	10	1	1	2	6	7		
Sydney United	8	2	2	4	5	10	8	-5	2	1	2	4	5	0	1	2	1	5		
Newcastle Breakers	8	1	4	3	10	13	7	-3	0	3	1	6	7	1	1	3	4	8		
Northern Spirit	8	2	1	5	7	13	7	-6	1	0	2	3	5	1	1	3	4	8		
Adelaide Force	8	1	4	3	5	9	7	-4	1	2	0	3	2	0	2	3	2	7		
Gippsland Falcons	8	1	3	4	4	10	6	-6	1	1	2	2	3	0	2	2	2	7		
Melbourne Knights	8	2	0	6	7	17	6	-10	2	0	2	4	4	0	0	4	3	13		

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Carlton's first loss signals a Power revival



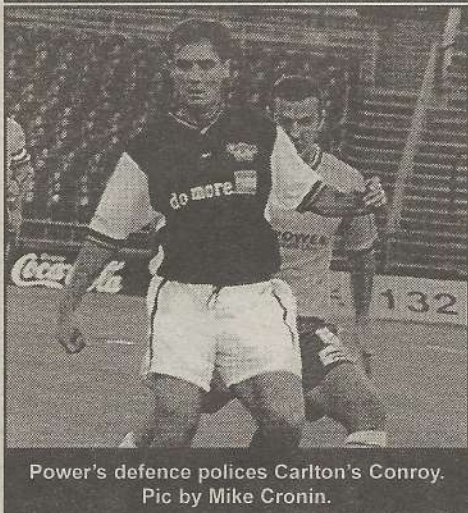
CARLTON 1

Moreira (p) 90

PARRAMATTA POWER 3

Griffiths 41, Gibson 43, Townsend 89

Friday night at Olympic Park, Melbourne. Crowd: 2,236



Power's defence polices Carlton's Conroy. Pic by Mike Cronin.

By Kevin Christopher

Parramatta Power proved that they have the potential to go a long way in this season's competition after downing previously unbeaten Carlton 3-1 at Olympic Park on Friday night.

Backing up from an impressive win over Perth Glory last week, Parramatta survived an initial onslaught from the home side before scoring twice in two minutes just before half-time.

A further nail was delivered in the fourth minute of first half stoppage time when referee Brett Hugo sent off Lubo Lapsansky for kicking out at Peter Bennett, although the decision appeared dubious to the majority present.

From that point there was little Carlton could do but prevent a cricket score, yet the early exchanges had indi-



Carlton's Andrew Marth flies high against Parra keeper Andrew Crews. Pic by Mike Cronin.

cated the visitors were in dire trouble.

Twice in the opening twenty minutes Archie Thompson had golden opportunities to put his team ahead, while Carlton's best chance came when Power 'keeper Andrew Crews scuffed a clearance straight to an unmarked Conroy 30 metres from goal. The Blues forward took the ball into the penalty area but sliced his left shot short wide of Crews' right hand post.

The home team were clearly dominant and their fluid movement of the ball overshadowed the midfield niggling between Andrew Marth, Lubo Lapsansky and Peter Bennett, who lost the early battle when he received a yellow card for a late challenge on Marth.

Archie Thompson with a scooped volley and David McPherson with a powerful header also went close before Joel Griffiths broke free at the other end to force a diving save from Dean

Anastasiadis.

Four minutes from the scheduled half-time break Griffiths put his side ahead with his fifth goal in as many games, a strike rate that Olyroo coach Raul Blanco may find difficult to ignore.

After exchanging passes with Walter Ardone and holding off a challenge from Sean Douglas, he fired

a right foot shot across the goal and into the far corner of the net, a classic striker's goal which fully exploited the excessive space in the Blues defence.

Almost from the re-start Lapsansky received a yellow card for a foul on the goalscorer, but the blond striker was at the heart of Parramatta's second goal as well, finding Ahmid Elrich in space after causing more havoc down the left hand flank. Elrich's shot was only parried by the 'keeper and John Gibson was first to the rebound to complete the formalities from close range.

Steve Berry could have buried the Blues before the break but his header from a Gibson corner went narrowly wide. The burial was left to referee Brett Hugo when he flashed the red card at Lapsansky to end serious hopes of a Carlton revival.

Parramatta closed the game down well in the second half, retaining possession with ease and playing a far greater percentage of the game in their opponent's half, with Angelucci having the best of the chances, blasting wide from fifteen metres in a one-on-one with the 'keeper.

Meanwhile, Blues coach Stuart Munro had shuffled his bench in an effort to inject some urgency into proceedings. He replaced Conroy with Terminello at half time to shore up the midfield but the crowd were audibly displeased with his decision to replace the fans' favourite Thompson with Moreira twenty-five minutes later.

The Blues battled manfully despite being reduced to ten men and they managed to keep the opposition at bay until a dreadful error from Sean Douglas allowed Danny Townsend to charge down a clearance and watch incredulously as the ball cannoned past Anastasiadis and into a vacant net.

Moreira reduced the deficit with a late penalty, earned after Blagojevic was adjudged to have brought down the Brazilian inside the eighteen yard box. But by that stage some fans were already on their way to the exit gates.

The farcical nature of Parramatta's third goal also prompted Carlton coach Stuart Munro to be particularly blunt at the post-match press conference.

"The third goal was the most pathetic schoolboy stuff ever, from a guy who you never expect to make that kind of mis-

take. To concede that third goal in the fashion it was conceded, to me, just summed up the whole night."

The result was especially bitter given his team's start to the match.

"For the first forty one minutes, I personally think if it was a boxing match it would have been stopped. But if you don't take your chances in this game you get nothing out of it.

"At one-nil you can handle that, two-nil right before half time and then all of a sudden you get a guy sent off...everything seemed to happen in that five minute spell,

and that five minute spell just cost us the whole game."

As for the red card for Lapsansky, a bemused Munro approached Brett Hugo as the players left the field at half time.

"The referee said that Lubo kicked him (Bennett) when he was on the

ground. If that's the case then he was rightly sent off. I can't really say too much until I see the video."

Parramatta coach David Mitchell was understandably delighted with the result, although he agreed his side was under the hammer in the opening stanza.



Power's man in form, Joel Griffiths.

MATCH STATS



CARLTON: Anastasiadis, McPherson, Deans, Douglas, Marth, Atkinson, Lapsansky, Packer (Anthopoulos 68), Markovski, Conroy (Terminello 46), Thompson (Moreira 71)



PARRAMATTA: Crews, Blagojevic, Barrett (Santalab 34), Vrkic, Elrich (Eagleton 71), Bennett, Berry, Ardone, Gibson, Griffiths, Angelucci (Townsend 77)

Yellows:

Carlton: Lapsansky 42, Markovski 45+
Parramatta: Bennett 25, Ardone 42, Townsend 80

Red card:

Lapsansky 45+

Best Player

3. JOEL GRIFFITHS (PARRA),
2. Andrew Crews (Parra),
1. Ahmid Elrich (Parra)

Referee: Brett Hugo

"I think we've got one of the most under-rated goalkeepers in the league in Andrew Crews, he kept us in the game. Carlton played very well during that period and were unlucky probably not to score a couple of goals. But as soon as we scored you could see the confidence rise through the team".

Mitchell is now convinced his team has turned the corner.

"The ball didn't bounce for us in the first few weeks... we're a good side, there's no doubting that but we just haven't had the results and the think the league is a bit more competitive than it probably has been (in the past)."

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Finally, the return of the Bulldog Spirit



NORTHERN SPIRIT 3

Bingley 34, Saad 38, Slater 85

FOOTBALL KINGZ 2

Stergiopoulos 17, Osman 88

Friday night at North Sydney Oval, Sydney. Crowd 8,933

MATCH STATS



NORTHERN SPIRIT: Perosh, Rudan, Sobczyk (Cunico 68), Casserly, Bilokapic, Bingley, T Cranney, Langdon, A Griffiths (Catanzaro 77), Slater, Saad (Seal 75)



FOOTBALL KINGZ: Utting, Stergiopoulos, Jackson (Van Steeden 77), de Jong, Mennillo, Middleby, Ngata, Osman, Vicelich, Jones (Perry 80), Riddle (Rufer 62)

Yellows:

Spirit: Rudan 39, Slater 74

Best Players

3 ROBBIE SLATER

2 Matthew Bingley

1 Paul Bilokapic

Referee: Matthew Breeze.

By Paul Goodwin

At last the North Sydney faithful had something to celebrate last Friday night, but there were a few nervous moments for Northern Spirit coach Graham Arnold, watching from the elevation of the grandstand, and his assistant on the bench, Ian Crook, before the full points could be claimed.

In defeating the lively Football Kingz from Auckland 3-2 Spirit rewarded their loyal supporters with a much improved performance inspired largely by the hastened return to the side of their skipper Robbie Slater.

The carrot-topped grafter and some would say Spiritual leader Slater gave his utmost despite a nagging calf injury which was not fully healed, but it was fitting that he scored the clinching third goal near the end with a convincing follow up shot after his initial pile driver had only been beaten away by the Kingz keeper.

Spirit were right on song in the opening fifteen minutes and looked certain to open the scoring in that period, but again were luckless in front of goal.

There must have been doubts about a twice saved series of shots in the 8th minute when first Troy Cranney with a header and then Saad with a close range shot had Kingz keeper Michael Utting claiming the ball on the goal-line, seeming to drag the ball forward a few inches after it had already crossed.

Matt Bingley had already broken through a minute earlier, dancing between defenders and then having a fine, low shot brilliantly pushed away by the busy keeper.

Bingley, installed in the midfield on this occasion, at least until the last twenty minutes when he needed to shore up the defence, got onto a typical cross from the left by Matt Langdon in the 10th to clip the ball over the bar at the far post.

The Kingz worked their way into the game and in the 13th caused the first scare in the newly shaped Spirit defence.

A dazzling header by Stu Riddle was deflected over the bar for a corner, after a very swift build up and a minute later from a good throw on the right by Ivan Vicelich to Fred de Jong, the ball was played in for Robbie Middleby whose low shot was saved well at the foot of the post by John Perosh who is playing very well this season.

The Kingz maintained their momentum and looked ever dangerous, being rewarded with the opening goal by a brilliant piece of opportunism by Australian star Marcus Stergiopoulos in the 17th minute.

The former Carlton player made rapid ground from almost the half way line to latch onto a poor clearance, following a move begun by de Jong on the right, and with the defence clearly expecting a pass he waltzed through the backline like a hot knife through butter, before despatching the ball past a hopelessly exposed Perosh.

Perosh was also forced to come racing off his line in the 29th when an under-hit back pass by Langdon was seized upon by an alert Riddle, the keeper just doing enough to smother the attempted shot.

Perosh was caught in two minds a couple of minutes later as the Kingz continued to hold sway and it was fortunate that Lee Jones miscued his shot after Middleby and de Jong had met little resistance as they worked their way into the box. He did much the same a minute later, Middleby not making the most of his opportunity.

With the game looking to get away from Spirit at this stage it needed some extra steel and self belief for the home side to regain control and it came in the simplest of fashions.

A big goal kick from Perosh was contested successfully on the right by Abbas Saad, deep into Kingz territory and when Bingley got to the ball before a defender he was able to go on, draw the keeper and slot home in the bottom right corner of the net almost in slow motion.

Spirit took the lead in similar style three minutes later, Paul Bilokapic winning a tight contest out on the left touchline, some four metres from goal and feeding Slater on the wing.

The veteran striker got a good bounce as he worked his way past a defender and then sent over a cross which Saad was able to control and tuck past Utting inside the same right post, also with a delicate touch.

Spirit clung nervously to their slender lead and hung on well until Wynton Rufer injected himself into the Kingz midfield.

Spirit coach Graham Arnold responded immediately by taking off youthful defender Jack Sobczyk and moving Bingley back to mark Rufer whose influence was thus minimised if not eliminated.

Rufer provided de Jong with a heading chance in the 63rd, soon after coming on and it was only the bar that beat the former Marconi striker as Perosh could not collect the awkward high ball.

There were further chances for both sides before each scored again.

Rufer's cleverly controlled 66th minute free kick was deflected successful-

ly for a corner and at the other end Saad hooked one over the bar after running onto a lob from deep in the defence in the 72nd.

The three Spirit substitutes Michael Cunico, David Seal and Simon Catanzaro combined to create an excellent chance for Cunico which the keeper saved well in the 78th, after Seal had earlier headed just over the bar.

Rufer put over a clever cross for the Kingz in the next seconds, the resultant header by Ivan Vicelich being only parried by Perosh but lifted to safety by a well placed Bingley.

With their hearts in their mouths the Spirit fans were relieved to see their Bulldog skipper make the most of a exchange of passes with Bilokapic to hit a fierce shot that Utting could only beat away, leaving Slater to slam the rebound gleefully into the roof of the net.

Spirit Point erupted, the fans rejoiced at the seemingly impregnable 3-1 lead and with five minutes left on the clock it certainly looked all over.

Cunico fed Catanzaro in the 87th but the youngster hit a weak shot at the keeper and then Slater gave Seal a ball for him to smack from a tight angle on the left, and the keeper palmed the shot away with a fine reflex save.

The Kingz were not finished, however, a fast move down the right in the 88th led to Middleby getting the ball over for Levent Osman to steer past Perosh at the near post with a clinical header.

Four minutes of stoppage time elapsed before the locals could at last rejoice, not a win to get too excited about in terms of solving permanent problems, but a good start on the road to recovery.

Graham Arnold was a relieved, yet happy man after the match and praised the role of his skipper Slater and the young brigade of whom Adam Griffiths had an all round game of some quality.

He admitted to being concerned when his side went a goal down, but suggested that Slater's workrate and on field example was the telling factor in the team's turnaround.

His opposite number Shane Rufer, who shares the coaching duty with his playing brother Wynton, felt that his players had not put in the necessary degree of effort and suggested that only two members of his side could hold their heads high.

He also said that the absent Chileans David Moya and Aaron Silva were not in his current plans.

Some other imports were also not figuring prominently and would need to do more if they were to claim the places of the home grown players in his squad.

They were still with the club, but rumours abound that they are heading back across the Pacific.

Silva did score a wonder goal against South Melbourne in the club's only



Spirit's Abbas Saad. He made an important contribution to his side's victory.

home win, but was substituted in the Wollongong game and did not make the Sydney trip.

Meanwhile Spirit have young players coming into the side and doing well and several strikers now vying for selection, a situation which must please the coach and the supporters.

This was an overdue win by the Spirit and while the crowd was down, the support level was definitely up, judging by the constant encouragement from all around the ground.

And that is good news indeed for the players and the club in general.



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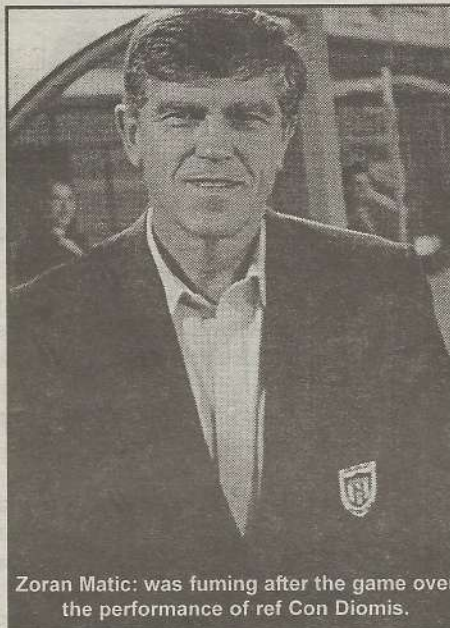
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 1

Own goal 23

ADELAIDE FORCE 1

Sabljak 11

Friday night at Breakers Stadium, Newcastle. Crowd 4,171



Zoran Matic: was fuming after the game over the performance of ref Con Diomis.

MATCH STATS

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

Catlin, Pryce, Roberts, McManus, Sprod (Trpcevski 57), Dodd (Mansley 82), Wilson, Buonavoglia, Wiecezorek, Harper, Juchniewicz (Tancheski 46)

ADELAIDE FORCE

Knezevic, Tobin, Mori, Sabljak, Vidmar, Day, Kemp, Costanzo, Hassell, Pelosi, Kim

Yellows

Breakers: McManus 27, Pryce 73
Force: Day 20, Pelosi 75

Reds

Force: Tobin 36, Vidmar 41

Best Players

3 ANGELO COSTANZO (FORCE)
2 Dong Ki Kim (Force)
1 Andy Roberts (Breakers)

Referee: Con Diomis

By Michael Kmet

A defiant nine-man Adelaide Force held off a Newcastle Breakers assault for over fifty-five minutes to walk away from Breakers Stadium with a remarkable 1-1 draw.

The match was shaping as a close, exciting battle until referee Con Diomis marched both captain Alex Tobin in the 36th minute and then Aurelio Vidmar five minutes later for professional fouls.

The match then turned into a one-sided affair with the Breakers having ninety percent of possession, but unable to pierce a resilient Adelaide defence.

As seen countless times in football the team with the numerical advantage did not have the astuteness and mobility to punish their opposition. In this match the

Breakers seemed clueless on how to penetrate a stacked Adelaide defence, so much so, that at times the Breakers had four defenders marking the Force's lone striker Claudio Pelosi.

Breakers' coach Lee Sterrey was again left to lament on a missed opportunity for maximum points. "It was a game we should have really won with eleven men against nine", Sterrey said after the match.

"Eleven men against nine doesn't always go. It's how you execute things. We lacked a lot of crispness in attack, particularly in the mobility area. We were always going to have plenty of possession but lacked the final killer."

Sterrey once more did not hide his frustration at the lack of experience and naivety of his charges. "In a nine on eleven situation when you're not smart you don't win. When we did need to punish them we didn't. Out wide the crossing was woeful - we didn't play anything deep to the back post and the mobility of the front line was not there."

"We put our own brick wall on the edge of their box and that was playing right into their hands."

Before the dismissals of Tobin and Vidmar the match had all the trademarks of a quality encounter. The Breakers looked dangerous while the Force looked impressive with their passing and movement off the ball.

It took just two minutes after the kick off for pint-sized Johnny Buonavoglia to be amongst the action. A quick throw by Andy Harper fed Buonavoglia clear of the Adelaide defence but he shot weakly at Knezevic.

Four minutes later a great header by Brad Wiecezorek found Buonavoglia on the edge of the box but his driving shot went straight to the keeper.

The Force weathered this very early storm and started to string some passes together, resulting in Adelaide's first goal in the 11th minute.

A Force interplay of seven or eight passes left Nick Sabljak free on the edge of the eighteen-yard box. His drive from

the right hand side crashed into the top corner of the net, silencing the home crowd.

Minutes later Aurelio Vidmar found himself in a similar position. However, his low shot hit the right hand post and ricocheted across the face of the goal.

However the Breakers hit back in the 23rd minute. A great piece of individual skill by Mark Wilson gave him enough space to locate Shane Pryce on the left wing. Knezevic fumbled Pryce's curling cross into the path of Sabljak who was unlucky to miscontrol the ball into the back of his own net.

This goal seemed to awaken the Breakers from a four week slumber as they played some of their best football of the season at home.

Andy Roberts, given the man-marking job on Aurelio Vidmar, made some penetrating runs along with left-winger Brad Wiecezorek.

At the 36th minute mark, the Adelaide Force lost any chance of winning the game. Alex Tobin left with a one-on-one situation with Andy Harper, felled Harper as he ran towards goal. Diomis had no hesitation in marching Tobin even though the decision looked harsh.

Harper played the ball wide of Tobin but ran straight over the top of him, leaving Tobin no chance but to collect Harper.

Five minutes later Adelaide's

night turned disastrous as Aurelio Vidmar cleaned up the marauding Andy Roberts in another one-on-one situation. The ensuing red card to Vidmar this time was justified, as Roberts would have certainly ran clear to goal.

The rest of the game offered little highlights as the frustrated Newcastle crowd's boos and jeers best summarised the match.

The Breakers' only real chance came minutes after half time when Mark Wilson was given a point blank opportunity but fired his shot straight to Knezevic.

Lee Sterrey tried desperately to alter the situation by bringing on the young legs of Chris Tancheski and Chad Mansley making his senior debut, but it was to no avail.

The Breakers could not get through for their first home win.

Adelaide Force coach Zoran Matic was less than impressed with the refereeing of Con Diomis, who in his opinion cost Adelaide the match. Matic was blunt in his assessment of Diomis' performance.

"Con has refereed us four times in the last eight games. Am I married to him? I don't see my wife as often as I see Con. I think he is a lovely boy, but I don't think he can referee."

"Any-one who has played soccer could see that they were not red cards, but now you have these puppy dogs running around the country who have never played the game, in seniors and juniors. I've had my quarter of Con Diomis - someone else can have him for God sake."

"The way he refereed in Canberra (the Force's last away game) was an embarrassment. I nearly left with thirty minutes to go because I didn't want to see him there."

"It was a disgrace. Not that we played well, we deserved to lose, but referees can't have a deal in the score."

Despite the Breakers' poor showing Lee Sterrey is not panicking about the situation. "We are in the same position we were on the table last year. I didn't commit suicide last year, so I'm not going to commit suicide this year."

Newcastle news

Breakers' captain Shane Pryce (right) will have x-rays this week to determine if an elbow injury sustained in Friday night's match against the Adelaide Force is serious.

Pryce had his left arm in a sling after the game. Pryce said that he has never felt a pain like this before and that the problem seems to be at the point of his elbow.

Meanwhile Scottish legend Willie Wallace will be in Newcastle mid January as a guest coach at a special new coaching clinic to be held at the University of Newcastle.

Excel Soccer in conjunction with the University of Newcastle Soccer Club, and the University of Newcastle Sports Union will host Kickoff 2000 - a high quality, high intensive camp.

The camp to be held from January 17 - 21 will include five days of high quality coaching with 30 sessions.

Other coaches include John McKie, Ossie Bellamy, speed and agility coach Dennis Pitt, and Jim

Foley.

Spokesperson for Excel Soccer Phil Russell said he was excited to offer the youth of Newcastle a real coaching camp with emphasis on skills and techniques. Any player interested in attending these camps can call Phil Russell on 0419 123 697.



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Gone with the wind: Wolves' scrappy win

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2

Cervinski 5, Petrovski 57

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 0

Sunday night at Brandon Park, Melbourne. Crowd 3,450



MATCH STATS:



WOLLONGONG WOLVES:

Pogliacomi, Souris, Stanton, Cervinski, Horsley, Reid (Surjan 80), Young, Chipperfield, Harlock,

Huxley (Spencer 87), Masi (Petrovski 45).



GIPPSLAND FALCONS:

Jevdevic, Fak, Gotis, Durakovic, Vargas, Bell (Hastie 80), Puca (Nicol 68),

Hutchinson, Kakos, Marcina, Nilo

Yellows

Wolves: Reid 14, Chipperfield 47, Young 49

Falcons: Fak 17, Hutchinson 42

BEST PLAYERS

3. CHIPPERFIELD (WOLLONGONG)

2. Cervinski (Wollongong)

1. Durakovic (Gippsland)

Referee: Brian Precious

By Steven Webb

Wollongong coach Nick Theodorakopoulos thinks his side plays better against better opposition. They didn't play well tonight.

Coming off games where they scored three goals then four goals, Wolves expected to score five against Gippsland.

And they should have done that had not a strong northerly wind and lack of application conspired against them.

For their part, the Gippsland players were outclassed but not humiliated.

They kept running, had as many if not more shots on target, and could almost have stolen some points at the end of the game.

Wollongong kicked off with the wind, sending Young skipping through the Gippsland midfield toward goal - a path Chipperfield was to follow repeatedly later in the game.

But it was defender David Cervinski who drew first blood.

In recent games Cervinski has used his considerable aerial skills to Wolves' benefit and most of his early touches against Gippsland were headers.

One was a backward flick that caught Pogliacomi by surprise. Another was from a Harlock free kick in the fourth minute that won Wolves a corner.

And after that corner was cleared his head was in the way of a David Huxley drive - deflecting the ball out of Jevdevic's reach and under the crossbar.

Five minutes in and the expected goal glut seemed likely. But no.

Rallying the Gippsland troops was Mehmed Durakovic playing his 250th game in the NSL.

He put some order in the backline, picked and intercepted crosses and through balls, and made several important

last minute tackles and clearances.

But Wolves' greatest enemy was themselves. Always able to win possession from Gippsland, they broke down their own movements with poor control, poor passing and poor invention. Consequently there were few shots on target.

Gippsland had a series of free kicks in Wollongong's half - Wolves pulled a lot of players back for them. They were hardly threatened but they lost shape.

Stuart Young, always threatening with his control and ability to quickly change the direction of play, cleared from one Gippsland attack and released Harlock on the left whose cross almost found Masi on the far post.

Reid and Horsley, who independently created havoc with their runs at the Gippsland defence, combined in the 19th minute for an incursion into the Gippsland penalty area and almost got a shot on goal.

Five minutes later Horsley ran himself into the Gippsland penalty area and passed to Chipperfield who almost beat the keeper.

In the 33rd minute Young turned sharply on the edge of the area and shot almost on target. Then from a similar position Chipperfield headed down to his own feet for a shot Jevdevic actually had to save - punching over the bar.

With six minutes to go in the first half Chipperfield fortuitously found the ball at his feet, in the clear, and he got cocky, trying to run it around Durakovic.

But Chipperfield isn't quite that fast and Durakovic isn't quite that old.

Just before half time Gippsland put

work of the two keepers. He was confident in the air, catching most, punching some and only spilling one.

Gippsland tried several desperate long distance shots with the wind in the second half. Most of these were easy fare for the keeper but one, in the 77th minute, got him horizontal to the ground.

Kakos was in action again in the 51st minute, beating two defenders and shooting wide of the right upright with only Pogliacomi to beat.

Two minutes later Wolves had a corner and the ball was cleared off the Gippsland line. Then a header from a Reid free kick glanced wide of the left upright.

Chipperfield was soon on one of his raids through the midfield and into the Gippsland penalty area.

From the left this time, he pulled it back for Petrovski coming in on the far post. The jubilant striker headed it back across goal into the net.

Five minutes later Chipperfield was at it again. A blistering run at the Gippsland defence ended with a pass to Horsley on the right who crossed back to Young who volleyed wide.

Kakos had a cross brush past Wolves' crossbar. Fak made a saving tackle when Wolves were getting overconfident and starting to play with the Gippsland defence.

Then in the 82nd minute Kakos found great touch, collecting the ball on the right side of Wolves' area - but crossing to no-one.

A cross did find Nicol in the 85th minute. His diving header produced Pogliacomi's best save of the match.

Gippsland pushed harder as Wolves stopped bothering. Kakos sprayed a ball from the right across the face of the Wollongong goal. Waiting on the far post to miss an easy chance was Nilo.

After the game Nick Theodorakopoulos, happy with three wins in a row (thinking it should have been



Wolves supremo Nick Theodorakopoulos pondering on why his winning team is not attracting more of the South Coast's fans. Pic Stephen Webb

recent matches.

"Going with the wind we had to play feet and we didn't do that in the first half. And I think Gippsland had the same problem in the second half. They were trying to play the through ball, rather than to feet and that obviously helped [us]."

Theodorakopoulos said he dropped Chipperfield back in the second half because he felt if he ran at the Gippsland defence Wolves would have a better chance of cracking them. It seemed to work, he added.

The Wolves coach was less disappointed with his side's missed chances than with players who took the wrong options or couldn't 'ad lib'.

He also expressed some disappointment with the turnout of local fans, regardless of the weather, particularly since Wolves were proving to be such an attractive, winning and attacking team.

Gippsland coach Jeff Hopkins said his team was struggling to score. He said he thought the difference between the two sides was that Wollongong in midfield and up front had players who were confident. And they had good finishers.

"With us, we've been playing well. We've been looking solid. But when the chances have come we've not been taking them. And the longer it goes I think it's been getting to the players' heads."

He said in previous games they had created more chances. They hadn't created too much against Wollongong but he put a lot of that down to the conditions.

He said when he came to the club one of his main goals, with the likes of Durakovic, was to get the team organised.

Perhaps he had sacrificed something, he said, players going forward, and he should change things a little now and be more adventurous.

"It gets tough the longer you go without scoring," he said. Playing Northern Spirit at home next week would be a big game for Gippsland.

"The gap is starting to appear now. Last week if we'd won we could have been up in seventh place. Now we have to get back on the right track and start winning games, especially at home."

His prescription for the week ahead: "Maybe a change in formation and keep the lads positive. It's all you can do."



Falcons' coach Jeff Hopkins: may try a new formation next week. Pic Stephen Webb

together a string of attacking passes and got the ball across the by-line for a Wolves goal kick.

And they began the second half attacking, a cross from Marcina on the right having to be caught over Kakos' head by Pogliacomi.

Though not indicative of the run of play, Pogliacomi probably had the most

four), said it was pleasing to see his players weren't complacent. He said it was to his players' credit that they were able to break a capable defence twice. But he said Wolves were extremely lucky not to concede one near the end.

He said the wind destroyed the game as a spectacle and that he had warned the team the game wouldn't be as pretty as

16-year-old's debut from Hell

PERTH GLORY 6

Edwards 34 and 48, Ergic 60 and 73, Boutsianis 32 Miller 67

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1

Cervinski 77

Sunday at Perth Oval, Perth. Crowd 11,027



MATCH STATS:

PERTH GLORY



Franken, Trajkovski (Afkos 72), Harnwell, Naven (capt), Edgar, Miller, Wehrman, Halpin (Thorpe 60), Ergic, Boutsianis (Carbone 69), Edwards.



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS-Hrehoresin, Nastevski, Vargas, Kovacevic, Rajher Magdic 24), Vassallo (Plunkett 64), Susa, Kiratzologu, Reda, Kelic, Cervinski

YELLOWS

Glory: Harnwell 55, Carbone 90

Knights: Reda 1, Magdic 40

REDS:

Knights: Reda 55

BEST PLAYER

3. EDWARDS (PERTH GLORY)

2. Ergic (Perth Glory)

1. Harnwell (Perth Glory)

Referee-Simon Micallef

Power with big utility Hamilton Thorpe coming into the squad after constant back injuries.

Striker Bobby Despotovski failed to recover from an ankle injury but the Knights also had problems losing keeper Martin John to food poisoning, which meant keeper Adam Hrehoresin, 16, was flown in early Sunday morning to fill the void and make his NSL debut in one of the most fiercest NSL venues.

The rivalry between these teams is well-known and in the first minute Kasey Wehrman and Michael Reda were involved in 'hand bags at ten paces' after a crude challenge from the former Brisbane star just after kick off.

Reda was shown the yellow card when a red wasn't out of the question ...it makes you wonder in the consistency of the retaliation rule when the Reda outburst made the infamous Beckham red card look like a joke.

The young Knights keeper was tested early, being caught off his line by Ergic but the Glory star failed to chip over for an easy opening goal.

Miller also made a gallant run at goal after dispossessing Cervinski but all to no avail.

The first corner of the game came after 15 mins, the lack of big strong players like Markovski and Hay showing with the ball easily being cleared.

A minute later Kelic had a clear header but shot wide saving blushes for the suspect Perth defence.

The Knights were looking like the stronger team as the Glory could not break down a stubborn defence in a game where the local junior league was looking like better quality than that was being dished out on the Perth Oval pitch.

The home side had a chance go begging when Edwards headed a Wehrman pass just wide.

In the 23rd minute Jolic was subbed for Magic; Jolic copping a heavy knock in the first few minutes of the game.

Reda's game from hell continued when he didn't clear a ball properly, Halpin shooting wide.

Soon after in the 32 minute the Glory hit the lead. A cross from Edwards finding Boutsianis who headed towards goal (it took a cruel deflection off Vukadin and straight into the net.)

Shortly after it was 2-0, the Glory finding extra confidence and actually having shots on goal, finally realizing that it was a NSL debutant between the sticks.

Boutsianis turned provider setting Edwards on his way, the former Socceroo outran the defence shooting the goal past the keeper with an excellent finish.

His obvious frustration of the season so far being taken out on the corner flag a la Craig Burley at France 98.

Glory pressed for more in the closing part of the half but the Knights held on. In the second half the purple shirts went on all out attack onto a quickly unraveling Knights defence.



Glory defender Jamie Harnwell. Played well but is out of next week's game against Carlton.

In the 48th minute, Edwards finishing off a great display of skills by Boutsianis and Wehrman, the latter finding Edwards free after a fancy backpass from Boutsianis, Edwards slotted through his second goal of the match.

In the 51st minute Franken made his first error of the game by handling a back pass, the resulting free kick whacking against the right hand post - Glory and Franken being let off the hook.

After 55 minutes Reda was booked once more for retaliating to a harsh Harnwell tackle.

Harnwell was also booked and in doing so misses the game against Carlton.

With the Knights down to 10 men the floodgates opened, firstly wonderkid Ivan Ergic relishing his role behind the two strikers slotting home past the keeper to make it 4-0.

Shortly after Hamilton Thorpe came on in a central defensive role for Halpin. After a near miss by Naven playing

his heart out as sweeper Miller made it 5-0, taking the pass from Boutsianis and putting the ball through the keeper's legs giving the left wing back dynamo his first goal of the season.

Shortly after, a tiring Boutsianis was replaced by Carbone and Afkos relieved Trajkovski, the Socceroo playing one his better games of the season.

Susa came onto the pitch for the Knights but made little or no effect before Ergic scored his second goal putting another easy goal past the keeper, the Knights defence being torn apart by a rampant home team.

The clean sheet wasn't kept by the Glory. A free kick taken by Cervinski easily cleared the wall and got past Franken to make it 6-1. The Knights fans in the southern stand at least had one thing to cheer about.

After the match Bernd Stange said that the win was mainly 'to win fans back' and that this was the result 'he' had to have after the ribbing he gave his player midweek.

When asked about the impending return of former Glory boys Markovski and Deans returning next week in the navy blue of Carlton, he was more diplomatic, saying that 'yes they have very tall defenders and we must combat them' (subtle subject changes not part of Bernd Stange's skills as a coach.)

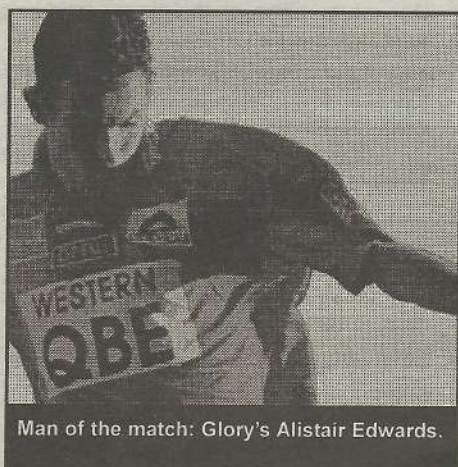
Knights caretaker coach Mark Talajic was very quick to dismiss himself as permanent coach, few can blame him after the way the Knights completely fell apart under a constant barrage from Glory. The problems are still there for Perth, they don't take the chances to put the ball in the back of the net, the problem all to evident in the first half before they opened the floodgates.

Glory are short of defenders in a huge way, losing Harnwell for the Carlton match puts more pressure on an already wilting defence.

A man of the match effort came from Edwards, doing the little things that sometimes are expected of strikers, his effort resulting in two goals for himself in a welcome return to form.

As far as the Knights go they have problems that need to be addressed, all the goals were one-on-ones with the keeper, the Glory made the Knights defence look not second rate but fifth rate.

One Glory player who will not be named quipped outside the changerooms that 'we still have to play these guys twice'.



Man of the match: Glory's Alistair Edwards.

sive performance of the season.

In previous weeks the Glory had been in a rut that had seen them winless with two successive away losses to Brisbane and the Parramatta Power respectively.

The Melbourne Knights had the turmoil of having head coach Joe Biskic resign but a 3-0 win under caretaker coach Mark Talajic against top six aspirants Newcastle gave the side much needed confidence heading into this match.

Dion Valle was dropped from the Glory squad that surrendered 3-1 to the

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Ian Rush does not disappoint



SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2

Emerton 18, Rush 37

MARCONI STALLIONS 1

Care 22

Sunday afternoon at Belmore Sports Ground, Sydney. Crowd 7,204

MATCH STATS



SYDNEY OLYMPIC:
Bouhoutsos, Thomas, Zoricich, Tsekenis, Baillie, Phillips, Cardozo, Emerton, Mendez (Zorbas 87), Wilson, Rush (Arambasic 76).



MARCONI STALLIONS:
Turnbull, Gibson, Care, McDonald, Z. Babic (Zoric 45), Maloney (Marchesini 83), Smith, Invincible, Farah, Renaud, Trajanovski

(Karl 69).

Yellows:

Smith, McDonald, Karl (Marconi), Tsekenis, Phillips (Olympic)

Best Player

3 - MENDEZ(OLYMPIC),
2 - Emerton (Olympic),
1 - Care (Marconi).

Referee: Eddie Lennie

By Ben Cubby

A typically cool finish from legendary striker Ian Rush gave Sydney Olympic a 2-1 victory over Marconi at Belmore Sportsground on Sunday afternoon.

The 38-year-old Welshman's 37th minute winner crowned a classy guest performance, and confirmed that he has lost little of his instinctive poacher's skill over time.

The match was played in wet conditions that may have been to Rush's liking, but which kept the attendance disappointingly low.

This pulsating, top-of-the-table derby was more than a one-man show, though.

The Olympic players, boosted by the presence of their illustrious teammate, turned on an energetic exhibition of attacking football.

Marconi provided dogged opposition and could have snatched an equalising goal on several occasions during the scoreless second half.

With all the attention focussed upon the home side, Marconi nearly took the lead early on. Luckily for Olympic, Marcus Phillips remained on his toes and cleared Darren McDonald's shot off the line in the 5th minute.

Brett Emerton had a scintillating first half, and he put Olympic in front after 18 minutes. A defence-splitting pass from Gabriel Mendez found the Olyroo captain sprinting in from the right.

His low, first-time shot beat the 'keeper and cannoned off the far post into the net.

Olympic could have doubled their lead a minute later, but Scott Thomas completely mistimed his shot when confronted with a clear sight at goal.

Chris Care, making his 50th appearance in the National League, started and finished the move which lead to Marconi's equaliser.

He won the ball in midfield, exchanged a series of passes with McDonald and then rattled a 20 metre volley past George Bouhoutsos in the Olympic goal.

Rush was being closely policed by Marconi defender Mike Smith, who earned the game's first yellow card for a crunching tackle on the former Liverpool star.

Gradually, though, Rush began to find some space and exert an influence on the match with his deft touches and well-timed runs.

Lyndsay Wilson presented him with a half-chance in the 25th minute, and it took a desperate challenge from Smith to deflect the ball into the grateful gloves of Mike Turnbull.

Olympic's second goal brought the home crowd to their feet. Scott Baillie's long, searching pass found Cardozo, who hooked the ball acrobatically on into the path of Rush.

The veteran striker controlled with his first touch and stroked a shot home under the advancing Turnbull with his second.

What a perfect advertisement for the Ian Rush finishing school!

Olympic laid siege to the Marconi goal for the remainder of the first half. Scott Thomas had another chance to score just before the break, but he sprayed his shot wide under pressure from Danny Invincible.

Socceroo Brad Maloney moved up into a striking role for the Stallions in the second half, giving the visitors some extra muscle up front.

The move almost paid off and George Bouhoutsos, who had looked decidedly shaky in the first period, pulled off a couple of spectacular saves to keep the Stallions at bay. First Kris Trajanovski, then Brendan Renaud and Maloney were thwarted by the agile custodian.

Peter Tsekenis fouled Maloney on the edge of the penalty box in the 62nd minute, and then redeemed himself by clearing the resulting free-kick off the goal-line.

Olympic began to pick up the pace again, as the sun finally emerged from behind grey clouds. Rush released Emerton with a well-weighted pass, but the younger player dwelt on the ball far too long and was dispossessed by Buddy Farah.

Turnbull produced a lightning-fast save to tip Rush's angled shot wide in the 69th minute. Moments later, Cardozo burst through a static Marconi backline but lost out in his jinking duel with Turnbull.

Rush was replaced by Arambasic in the 76th minute, applauding the crowd as he went, and receiving a huge ovation in return.

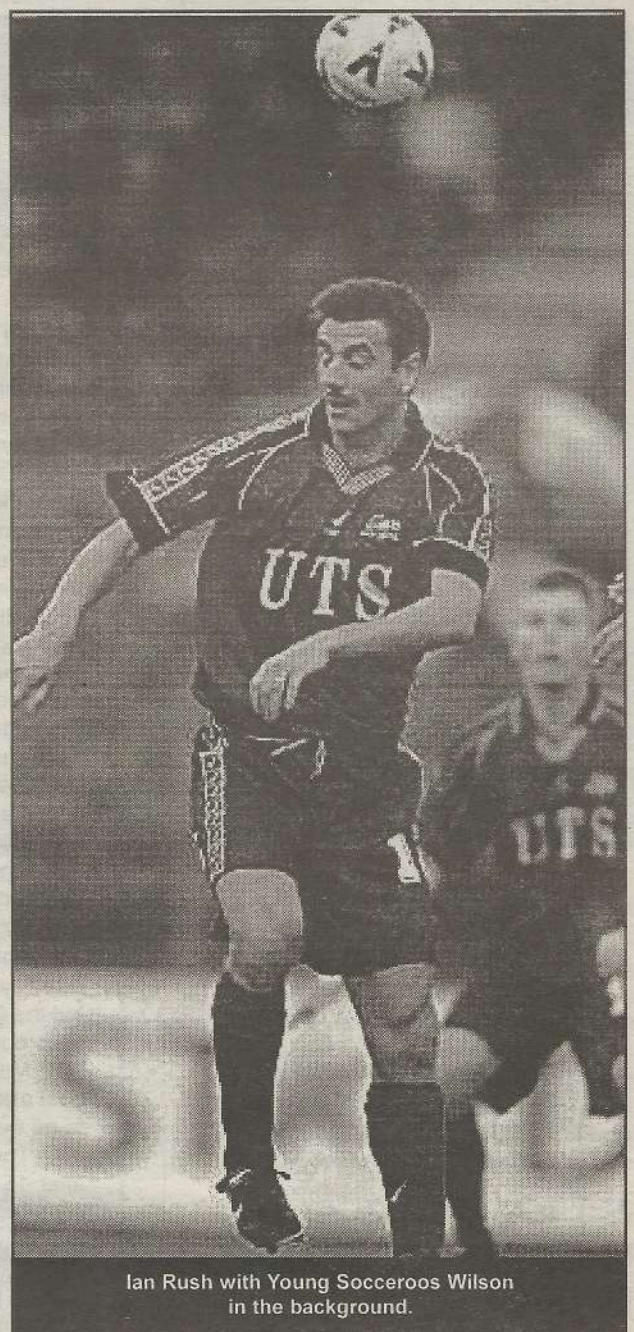
The main star had gone, but the game went on. Emerton and, particularly, Mendez continued to form an inspirational partnership in the Olympic midfield.

Arambasic seemed certain to inflict a killer blow on the Stallions in the 82nd minute, but Turnbull somehow turned his powerful close-range header over the bar.

Marconi remained under pressure until the final whistle, when Olympic were finally able to celebrate their first home win of the season.

Beaming Olympic coach Branko Culina was delighted with the win, and called working with Ian Rush "a privilege".

"I was over the moon with his per-



Ian Rush with Young Socceroos Wilson in the background.

formance today", he said. "He trained like an 18-year-old. He is a true professional".

Rush summed up the NSL as "technically very good, with more of a continental than a British style."

"In terms of skill, it's a lot better than the English Second Division (where Rush has lately been plying his trade with Wrexham), although the games tend to be a lot faster in England".

"I was very impressed not only with Olympic, but also with Marconi. It is obviously a very strong league here".

"Pablo was excellent", continued the likeable Rush.

"He has great skills, and he made my goal today. It was an instinctual thing, a quick one-two, that's my sort of goal".

Rush's advice to young players is to "play it easy. Get it and give it, give the easy ball. It's teams that win games, not players - that's the way we were taught at Liverpool".

"I knew Ian was going to score today", said Culina. "I had a look at his stats at Wrexham and I knew he was due a goal".

Rush instantly replied "I had a look at Olympic's stats and knew they were due a win!"

Culina expressed his disappointment at the modest attendance of 7,000, saying "it was a great game of soccer today, it's a pity that there weren't more people here to see it".

"Let's hope that those people who stayed at home in front of the TV will now come and watch the next home game", he ended.



Rush lays off for Cardozo in the match against Marconi.

Ten-man Cosmos takes point off Champions

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2 CANBERRA COSMOS 2

Lozanovski 12, Anastasiadis 63

Hamilton 53, Winnie 90+

Sunday night at Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne. Crowd 6,827



MATCH STATS:



SOUTH MELBOURNE:

Udvaracz, Liparoti,
Iosofidis, Orlie, De
Amicis, Clarkson
(Tsekinis 46),
Panopoulos, Lozanovski,
Trimboli (c) (Goutzioulis 46), Coveny,
Anastasiadis
(Magnacca 79).



CANBERRA COSMOS:

Barlow,
Milin, Winnie, Hooker
(c), Popovich, Polak,
Hamilton, James, Gonzalez (Kolpak
85), De Jesus (Musitano 70), Watkins.

Subs not used: Arranz.

Yellows:

South Melbourne: Liparoti (6)

Canberra: James (54)

Reds

Canberra: James (65)

BEST PLAYER

3. LOZANOVSKI

2. Tsekinis

1. de Jesus



South's danger-man Jimmy Tsekinis.

break. Cosmos seemed to have all threat covered.

But Lozanovski is a clever enough player to create movement when no movement seems possible.

He shimmied, then performed the action that players love to do and spectators never tire of - he nutmegged defender David Winnie and found a path to goal open up.

His low shot, of exquisite quality, bent in at the far post.

Canberra then levelled following a period of the game when they were at least the equal, and arguably had the better, of South.

From midway through the first half, and continuing into the early part of the second, Canberra had done well enough for the eventual equaliser not to have been a surprise.

It came within nine minutes of the restart from a de Jesus corner which was inadequately punched by Milan Udvaracz, South's new goalkeeper, and fell invitingly for Brian Hamilton at the edge of the area.

Hamilton's shot safely navigated its way through a forest of Canberra and South Melbourne legs.

But Lozanovski's skills were once again the rock upon which South's amaz-

ing home form is anchored.

Just after the hour mark, Jim Tsekinis, coming on along with George Goutzioulis for Trimboli and David Clarkson at the beginning of the second-half, had picked up a ball in the middle of the park and made a diagonal run to Lozanovski's wing.

He exchanged passes with Lozanovski giving his more senior team-mate the opportunity to send in yet another of the dangerous series of crosses that is Lozanovski's trademark.

This one hit space at exactly the same time as the fast-arriving John Anastasiadis, who up until then had a quiet game, but whose header powered into the net.

The contest might still have gone either way, but a two-footed challenge by Harry James not caused referee Jeremy Blaney to produce the red card and leave Cosmos the handicap of playing out the remaining third of the game a player short.

James had only minutes earlier seen Blaney's yellow card, but the challenge was sufficient was a direct red, rather than the indirect as a double yellow.

The best moments of the rest of the match were South's, with good chances falling to Vaughan Coveny and Tsekinis, but without the scoreboard operator being



Another good game from Canberra star Ivo de Jesus.



Cosmos' Jason Polak. Played against his former teammates.

troubled into further action.

With the crowd heading for the exits, counting another home win in their minds, Cosmos had a late corner. Michael Musitano swung it in, close to the goal-line, where Winnie was first to respond and bundle it in.

Winnie would be justified in thinking his goal at the death adequate pay-back for the Lozanovski nutmeg.

Disappointed South coach Ange Postecoglou said "I thought there were a couple of danger signs before (the equaliser)."

Postecoglou said he'd need to review the tape to determine how Winnie was the one to reach the ball, rather than it being dealt with by his defence.

"I'm disappointed at (goalkeeper Udvaracz) for the first goal," he said but declined to attribute blame for the second until his review.

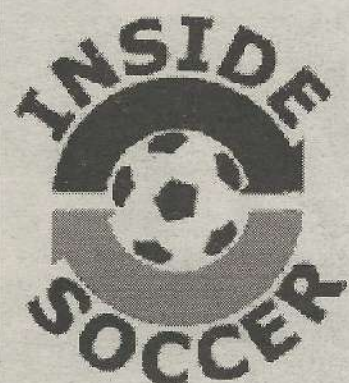
Sermanni was, not surprisingly, considerably happier at the outcome. "I'm pleased we got a draw. We feel we've got a team this year that's very competitive."

By Alan Clark

Two inspired moments from Goran Lozanovski - returning to action after a five week absence after he'd broken his jaw in the round three game against Auckland Kingz - seemed almost enough to give South Melbourne the win against Canberra Cosmos at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday, but a last gasp equaliser from David Winnie in the fourth minute of injury-time gave Canberra the point its endeavours warranted.

Speaking of the last kick equaliser after the game, Cosmos coach Tom Sermanni said, "You always have a little bit of hope."

In the 12th minute Lozanovski had been fed a ball wide to the right-wing by captain Paul Trimboli - himself returning after injury, maybe overly soon, as he failed to re-appear after the half-time



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Sydney Utd impresses against leaders



SYDNEY UTD 0

BRISBANE STRIKERS 0

Sunday night at Edensor Park, Sydney. Crowd 2,835

MATCH STATS



SYDNEY UNITED:
Hughes, Rastall, Moric, Bosnar, Kupresak, Savocca, Genc, Arrarte, Pondeljak, Bosevski (Zec 57), Jermen (Younis 65).



BRISBANE STRIKERS:
Bolton, Pilic, Meredith (Stefanutto 67), Gwynne, Bell, Langone (Baldwin 66), Ditton, Harris, Dwyer, Foster, Grierson (Di Losa 77).

Yellows:
Strikers: Gwynne 30

BEST PLAYERS
3: PONDELJAK
2: Arrarte
1: Bolton

Referee: G. Connolly

By John Vrtaric

Sydney United, languishing towards the bottom of the National League table and coming off a 3-0 loss at the hands of Canberra last Monday, belied their position to produce a brave performance against leaders Brisbane Strikers.

It was difficult to believe the Strikers were the table toppers as United put on a polished performance that lacked only the finishing touches to put away the goal required to achieve a deserved victory.

United were denied goals by a combination of brilliant saves by 'keeper Clint Bolton, fresh from his duties as understudy to Australian custodian Zeljko Kalac for the Brazil game, undisciplined finishing and bad luck.

The closest United got was in the 27th minute of the first half when a deep cross from the left by Eddie Bosnar was met on the half volley by Mario Jermen and, for once, Bolton was beaten but the cross bar intervened.

In between United, spearheaded by the dynamic Tom Pondeljak, counterattacked the fragile Strikers defence but its two strikers, Jermen and Nick Bosevski, could not put the finishing touches to the opportunities provided by the creative midfield of Pondeljak, Aytec Genc and young Nahuel Arrarte.

Strikers coach John Kosmina was forced to make changes to his winning team with the absence of his captain Stuart McLaren and Andrew Davidson. Matt Bell came in for McLaren while Leo Langone made his first appearance for the Strikers as Davidson's replacement.

Strikers, though, had the first couple opportunities. In the 7th minute a long ball from Glen Gwynne fell into the path of leading goalscorer Paul Foster just inside the United penalty box.

Foster, going for a record equalling seventh goal after having scored in the previous six games, had the right instinct to attempt to chip the 'keeper but his direc-



United keeper Brett Hughes.

tion was astray and the ball was cleared for a corner.

Three minutes later a long Nick Meredith cross from the left cleared everyone but as Vince Savocca was attempting to clear the ball he was robbed by Foster just outside the penalty box on Brisbane's right side.

Foster had time to look up and saw his striking partner Peter Grierson whom he found with a neat left foot cross. Grierson's near post header was just wide of Brett Hughes' goal.

The United midfield trio soon started taking control and the mobility of Pondeljak was about to cause great confusion amongst the Striker's defence, particularly on the their left defensive side.

In the 12th minute Pondeljak reacted first to a loose and played it through the legs of an opponent to Genc who took it towards the United right and played a good through ball to the overlapping Arrarte.

The youngster took the ball inside the Strikers' box but his attempted cross was blocked for a corner.

A minute late from the same position a lost ball by the Strikers defence was cut back from Jermen to Bosevski who chipped across the goal towards the far post where Pondeljak found it too far ahead of him.

The speed of Pondeljak came to the fore again in 17th minute when a move involving right wing back Kain Rastall and Bosevski relayed the ball to the dangerman who pushed it forward past the square defence for himself to run onto.

He was very close to putting himself in the clear with only a late sliding tackle from Bell wrested the ball from Pondeljak.

In the 26th minute the United midfield combined again on the left for Pondeljak to dance his way past four defenders across the Strikers' penalty box looking to find room for a shot. He eventually found some space but the shot was deflected for a corner.

A minute late came Jermen's shot against the crossbar - and this was the closest that United got to scoring a goal.

After a period of sedate play Kupresak chipped a ball to Pondeljak in the 37th minute just outside the penalty box. As he was about to collect the ball a good sliding tackle from Meredith pushed the ball away for a corner and saved the day again for the Strikers.

The resulting corner was headed by Kupresak at the far post where Bosevski seemed to prevent the ball from crossing the line and as the ball bobbed an United player stabbed it for a goal kick.

From the goal kick Bolton was forced into his first important save - as he took the kick he slipped and the ball traveled a short distance to Bell who was unable to control and the alert Pondeljak was first to the ball, taking it inside the box and fired a well struck shot which Bolton did well to save on the

near post.

In the last minute of first half normal time a mix up between Savocca and Arrarte left the ball to Grierson just outside the box and he attempted a left foot curling shot toward the far corner but it flew narrowly past the post.

The second half was more subdued with United unable to dominate as much as they had in the first half and it wasn't until late in the match that they created their best opportunities.

In the 63rd minute that man Pondeljak again plays a one-two with the substitute Matthew Zec and as he was unable to thread his way through he returned the ball back to Zec just inside the box.

Zec's first attempted shot was blocked but the ball bounces nicely for him and he volleys a rasping left foot shot which Bolton pushes away for a corner.

In the 75th minute a Kupresak pass found Zec inside the box again and his first time shot is blocked again



The impressive Sydney Utd midfielder Nahuel Arrarte.

but the ball bobbed about in the near the six yard box.

In the scramble an attempted clearance cannoned off substitute Ray Younis towards the far post where Bolton made another good save low to his right.

Pondeljak and Arrarte created another couple of half chances in the last ten minutes but the game died away as the Strikers did their utmost to hand onto an undeserved draw.

With United dominating most of the game the stand out players were all United's with Pondeljak clearly the man of the match.

The young Arrarte continues to impress while all three central defenders were impressive particularly the ever dependable Kupresak.

The competition leaders were never able to get into the game and their only impressive player was their 'keeper Bolton who most responsible for their hard earned point.



Brisbane's English striker/midfielder Peter Grierson.

ANISSA TANN-DARBY'S WOMEN'S SOCCER WORLD

NSW SAPPHIRES TAKE OUT NATIONAL TITLE



NSW star Jo Peters.

After last year's third place finish, the Sapphires had no intention of letting this year's final slip through their fingers. Winning the 1997/98 National Summer League the team had been extremely disappointed about not making the final series last year.

The Sapphires proved this year that they were the most consistent team throughout the entire competition.

Saturday's final at Marconi Stadium saw the Sapphires capture their second title in the Women's Summer League with a 1-0 victory over the South Australian Sports Institute Pirates.

An own goal after 18 minutes by South Australian Dianne Alagich -

after good work from Alicia Cavanagh - gave NSW an instant advantage for the rest of the game.

NSW dominated for 70 minutes and they squandered a number of chances, the scoreline could have been entirely different if the team had put away a number of early chances.

Going into the final the team was very confident after demolishing the Pirates 3-0 the previous week.

However, the team could have been a couple of goals down with a number of chances falling to the Pirates, as well.

NSW coach Cyrille Ndongo-Keller, a past member of the Cameroon National team, only took over six months ago.

His influence on the team has been significant and with a National title under his belt already, plans to develop women's football further in NSW over the next 12 months.

Ndongo-Keller admitted it wasn't the team's best performance but the 'fight' in the team allowed them to hold on the lead which proves the Sapphires are not just a good footballing side.

"There was a lot of determination and fighting spirit which won the game. I

don't think it was our best game, but we showed character to keep our one-goal lead," Ndongo-Keller said.

Prior to the game respected South Australian coach Kevin McCormack said that "nobody expected us to make four grand finals in a row nor to win this one, but we will be out to prove them wrong."

In the end though, the might of NSW was just too much for them. They should however be proud of their remarkable record of Grand Final appearances.

There were nine players in Saturday's game who are currently in the Matildas' squad.

Most of the players were hoping to perform well, especially with the up and coming Australia Cup selection pending.

Australia will take on Sweden at North Sydney Oval on January 7 in a four nation tournament.

The other two teams are World and Olympic Champions, the United States, and relative unknowns, the Czech Republic.

JUST WHO IS CYRILLE NDONGO-KELLER?

Where did current NSW Sapphires coach, Cyrille Ndongo-Keller come from you may ask? Or we did when he arrived to take over the team earlier this year. The team was still disappointed at the departure of Jean Paul-de Marigny, who had moved to Marconi.

It had only taken us a year to understand his accent, and then along comes Cyrille, with his own interpretation of the English language.

With his dreadlocks and his continued smile the girls wondered what we were in for!

However, after Saturday's success in the National Women's Summer League, I think we will be seeing more and more of Cyrille Ndongo-Keller.

Quietly spoken, the players found it extremely hard to understand Cyrille, in between his accent and every now and then breaking into French, the girls would be dumbfounded.

However, as the season progressed the girls learnt to understand his accent and his hand signals.

Some of the players thought that he was trying to land a plane, but eventually we were all able to understand what was required.

Cyrille tried to bring to the team a possession game and allowed the girls to

show their creativity.

He didn't place any restraints on the players and therefore, with an extremely talented squad of girls, this proved to work exceptionally well.

Cyrille will now take on the task of forming a squad for the Women's Super League in NSW.

The team will be slightly younger and more of a development squad. Hopefully it doesn't take the girls long to understand Cyrille's style of coaching

Still on the coaching front and Ian Murray has been appointed assistant national coach working with newly-appointed national coach Chris Tanzey.

Murray comes from 'within the system' currently women's soccer's ACT Intensive Training Centre Coach based at the ACT Academy of Sport.

The 43-year-old commences his new position on December 1, working from the AIS where our Matildas are based.

"It's a great challenge with only ten months to go before the Olympics and a fair bit of work to be done," said Murray of his new role.

National coach Chris Tanzey has welcomed the appointment, saying Murray is "an asset" and "he will be a huge help to me."

Full Name:	Cyrille Ndongo-Keller
DOB:	16/2/74
Place of Birth:	Yaounde
First Club:	Tonnerre, Yaounde.
Clubs:	Meolye, Yaounde, Parramatta Eagles, Darwin Cubs, West Adelaide.
Career Highlights:	Selection for the Cameroon Youth team Competing in African Nations Cup at Youth Level Playing in the World Youth Cup Being selected Best Player, Tonnerre 1992 Best player and leading goalscorer in the Singapore League whilst playing for Darwin Cubs.
Most Admired Players:	Ruud Gullit, Roger Milla
Biggest Influence:	Brother Samuel Ndongo-Keller
Languages Spoken:	French, English, Douala
Former Position:	Striker
Favourite Ground:	Maracana, Brazil
Favourite Holiday Spot:	Hawaii
Do you smoke:	No
Do you drink:	No



INSIDE JUNIOR SOCCER



Spirit Youth goalscorer Adam Snyder

Chris Dunkerley reports that on a fine Friday evening at North Sydney Oval Northern Spirit's Colts were defeated by the Spirit Youth team 1-4.

In an entertaining clash the Colts matched their much older and more experienced colleagues for long stretches of the game, relying on defending deep and fast one touch breakaways.

In the end it was only their physical strength ebbing away late in the game, despite full substitutions, that let the Youth snatch a quick goal. With the Colts pushing up to get back in the game the fourth was scored to kill the game.

The first goal came in only the 17th min when Simon Miller grabbed his first for the season when he steered a shot past Chris Sharpe in the Colts goal from good lead-up work by Adam Snyder.

The Colts then stood tall and got back into the game and in the 28th min Tony Perinich lobbed Paul Henderson, and the crossbar! Over the next few minutes there were several great moves which sliced through the Youth defence, and a series of free-kicks. In this passage of play Colts diminutive debutant Joseph Schirripa oozed class before he faded later in the game.

He had the best chance of the half when he hit a vicious free-kick from the right 30m across and past 'Hendo' only to see it cannon off the left upright.

For the Youth Snyder got into range but hit two shots over the bar late in the half.

With the teams taking the field in the second half to the singing of 'There's only Two Northern Spirits' from the Bob Stand there were chances to Snyder, whose shot was well saved by the impressive Chris Sharpe, and then Perinich at the other end.

Led by their six NSL players the Youth team then kicked up a gear. Adam Snyder bagged the second for the Youth by slipping the offside trap and clinically finishing past Sharpe.

A few minutes later Sharpe was forced to take a ball off Snyder's feet but was injured in the process.

Murray Nelson came on for Sharp and despite clear nerves did a good job - neither subsequent goal was his fault.

Snyder was running riot but gradually the Colts crept back in and Luciano Berbis and Perinich both tested Hendo.

Berbis's shot at 65 minutes was only saved at full stretch to the right. Nelson made a great scrambled save off Snyder and then Cameron Jones, who had been outstanding at the back, pushed up and his shot was deflected off a defender past Hendo.

The Colts couldn't sustain the pressure and the Youth powered through the final period with two goals in two minutes. First Snyder on the break and then James Monie with an angled shot from the left completed the scoring.

The two Northern Spirit teams don't usual don't play at Spirit headquarters and both teams seemed to enjoy the better surface once they got used to it.

SPIRIT COLTS 1 (Jones 70)

SPIRIT YOUTH 4 (Miller 17, Snyder 48, 84, Monie 86)

Best: Colts - Sharpe, Jones, Berbis, Perinich.

Youth - Snyder, Olic, Henderson, R Griffiths

Youth: Henderson, Olic, Prentice, Snyder, R Griffiths, Monie, MacRae, Kathel, Miller, Moss, S Cranney, Antar, Israel, Brickell, Catanzaro, Hamilton.

Colts: Sharpe, Anderson, Culina, Berbis, Sutton, Jones, Teofilio, Lyons, Perinich, Scirripa, Vasili, Church, Foti, Talevski, Majurovski, Nelson.

Stephen Webb reports that Wollongong were lucky to get away with a draw against the AIS, despite being two goals up at one stage. Wollongong's Daniel Aldridge was busy early, providing a good through ball to Dimoski and, in the 15th minute, heading onto the AIS crossbar.

Ceccoli, who had a quiet game, cleared strongly and made a few runs forward from his left back position.

Wolves' first goal was a deflection by a defender of a cross intended for Dimoski.

The first half was even, but mainly because Wollongong kept ruining their own good work.

AIS could take more credit for their performance in the second half. The strong northerly wind was with Wolves but AIS started with more flair. They continued the second half by playing football and carving up the local side.

AIS's outstanding player was Elias Demourtzidis, a dominating presence up front. Two minutes into the second half he had Beltrame saving at his feet. A minute later the Wolves keeper was saving one from his head.

Another minute later Demourtzidis was heading on for Bajurin who forced Beltrame to make another fine low save. Fifteen minutes into the second half a cross from Brodie on the right was headed down at the far post by Demourtzidis for Bajurin to put away.

Demourtzidis almost scored himself in the 70th minute but he couldn't control Hathway's low hard cross and the ball bounced away for a goal kick. AIS's second goal was an easy one - Brodie was put in the clear from what appeared to be an offside position. Beltrame thought so

and was yellow-carded for arguing the point with the assistant referee.

Beltrame redeemed himself with a fine save with his body from a low shot in the 84th minute.

The visitors' second goal may have been offside, but it was only the offside flag on several other occasions that saved Wolves from greater punishment.

WOLLONGONG: Beltrame, Velovski, Ceccoli, Markovski, Dimech (Southwell 73), Dimetrevski, Dellis (Nicholson 82), Rodrigues, Dimoski, Aldridge (Lucas 81), Ashley (subs), Lempriere, Rabcznski.

AIS: Wood, Mrkela, Wells (Talevski, G. 81), Graham, Sullivan, Brodie, Last, Bajurin (Talevski, Z. 76), Cvetanoski, Demourtzidis, Vasilevski. (subs), Aleksic, Hathway,

Roy Hay reports that South Melbourne had an eight-one win over Albury Wodonga at Bob Jane Stadium in the Southern Division NYL. The highlight being a spectacular five goal performance by striker Andrew Mashoian. In one bound he goes to second top of the goalscoring list in the Southern Division with eight goals.

Albury Wodonga was highly competitive in the first half, pulling back to two-one after Mustafa Mustafa had converted a penalty for South's second goal.

In the second half it was South Melbourne in charge though three of their goals came very late in the game. Apart from Mashoian's five and the penalty, the other South scorers were Adam Poole and Sebastian Petrovich.

David Martin scored for Albury Wodonga taking his tally to four for the season so far.

South Dandenong scraped home by a goal to nil away to Melbourne Knights Academy. It was a good game considering the windy conditions with both sides creating several chances but not taking them until Viktor Memeti struck in the 25th minute for the winner.

In what was otherwise a pretty even team performance, Ibrahim Ibraimi showed that he is one for the future, having just come back into the team after touring with the Victorian Development squad.

Melbourne Knights overcame Fawkner Blues by three goals to one. Anthony Pelikan was the star for the Knights with three goals.

Knights led two-nil till late in the game when Enzo di Santis for the Blues and Pelikan exchanged goals. Pelikan is now leading scorer in the Southern Division with nine goals from five games.

The Victorian Institute of Sport took more than an hour to open the score against the young Preston Lions, but then ran in four goals to produce a sound victory.

It was a tight midfield battle until Mark Tsiolas broke the deadlock in 67, then David Terek produced a stunning hat-trick with goals in the 75, 85 and 90 minutes. The superior fitness of the VIS lads was probably what made the difference in the end.

Carlton overcame Gippsland Falcons by six goals to nil at Anderson Park on Saturday. It was three-nil at half-time and Carlton was never in danger. Goals came from David Debevec who scored twice, Angelo Moutsopoulos, Mathew Nikolic, Dusko Delic and an own goal.

NORTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Power	7	6	1	0	26	4	19
A.I.S.	8	5	2	1	30	8	17
Sydney Olympic	6	4	2	0	13	4	14
Q.A.S.	7	4	1	2	22	8	13
Northern Spirit	6	4	1	1	11	6	13
Newcastle Breakers	8	3	1	4	12	13	10
Syd Olympic Academy	6	3	0	3	15	22	9
Northern Spirit Colts	6	2	2	2	8	8	8
A.C.T.A.S.	6	2	2	2	11	13	8
N.S.W.I.S.	6	2	1	3	8	7	7
Wollongong Wolves	6	2	1	3	5	9	7
Sydney United	4	2	1	1	5	10	7
Marconi Stallions	5	2	0	3	3	11	6
New Breakers Colts	7	1	1	5	8	16	6
Sydney United Colts	9	1	2	6	11	20	5
Marconi Stall. Colts	6	0	2	4	3	18	2
Woll. Wolves Colts	5	0	1	4	4	18	1

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Carlton	5	5	0	0	20	2	15
VIS	4	4	0	0	12	0	12
Melbourne Knights	5	3	1	1	23	12	10
Bullee Inter Kings	4	3	0	1	10	5	9
South Melbourne	4	2	0	2	14	6	6
Gippsland Falcons	4	2	0	2	7	13	6
Fawkner Blues	4	1	2	1	7	5	5
South Dandenong	4	1	2	1	6	6	5
Albury Wodonga	5	0	1	4	7	24	1
Mel. Knights Academy	4	0	0	4	2	7	0
Preston Lions	5	0	0	5	1	29	0

NORTHERN DIVISION RESULTS

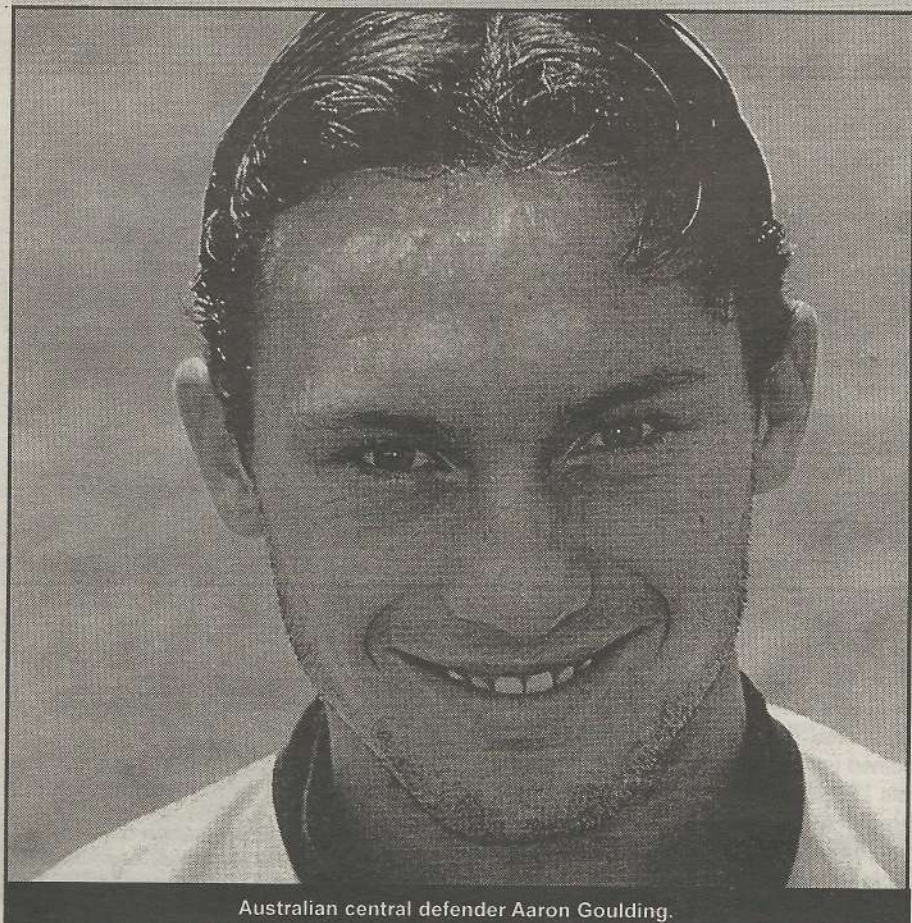
Newcastle Breakers 2 Becklar 24', 61'	Sydney United Colts 2 Turco 8', Willoughby 34'
Northern Spirit 4 Miller 10', Snyder 51', 85', Monie 86'	Northern Spirit Colts 1 Jones 75'
Sydney United 2 Agyei 48', Lo Protto 76'	Q.A.S. 1 Webber 71'
Sydney United Colts 1 Clowes 11'	Q.A.S. 2 McKay 51', 72'
Marconi Stall. Colts 3 Sandoval 3', 46', Brosque 36'	Parramatta Power 3 Kukucka 14', Thompson 67' pen, 87' pen
Wollongong Wolves 2 own goal 40', Ceccoli 66'	A.I.S. 2 Bajurin 69', Brodie 76'
New Breakers Colts 2 Provost 5', Andrews 23'	A.C.T.A.S. 1 Ivanic 21'
N.S.W.I.S. 2 Martin 59', Bojic 89'	Syd. Olympic Academy 3 Parisi 53', Sabuncuoglu 67', Cevenini 80'
Sydney Olympic 2 Carle 35' pen, Pisano 53'	Marconi Stallions 0

Bye - Wollongong Wolves Colts

SOUTHERN DIVISION RESULTS

VIS 4 Terek 3, Tsiolas	Preston Lions 0
Carlton 6 Debevec, Moutsopoulos, Nikolic, Delic, own goal	Gippsland Falcons 0
South Melbourne 8 Mashoian 5, Poole, Mustafa, Petrovich	Albury Wodonga 1 David Martin
Melb Knights Academy 0	South Dandenong 1 Memeti
Fawkner Blues 1 Di Santis	Melbourne Knights 3 Pelikan 3
Bullee Inter v Bye	

AUSSIES POWER TO FIRST SEMI FINAL SPOT



Australian central defender Aaron Goulding.

By Nick Guoth

One goal was enough to place Australia into their first Under 17 World Cup Semi-Final. Half-time substitute Jo Di Iorio volleyed home the winner from 20m out ten minutes after the break to give Australia a 1-0 win over Qatar.

Five times previously the Australians were unable to progress past the Quarter-Finals, but in Les Scheinflug's swansong the Australians are guaranteed two more matches.

Qatar came out firing in the first five minutes with Australian keeper Jess Kedwell-Van Strattan stretched to push away a shot by Mohamed Yasser.

It was the tonic to awaken the Australians as from then on they dominated just showing the difference in class between the two teams and the two Groups.

Only two minutes following the Qatar attack Louis Brain saw his volley go wide and a little while later livewire attacker Scott McDonald had two good chances, neither of which tested Qatar captain and goalkeeper Salman Al Ansari.

Then in the 29th minute came the best chance of the game for Australia. A well executed free kick from the left saw a confused Qatar defence allow Wayne Srhoj slide in behind. Al Ansari was the only one attentive and pulled off the save of the game from Srhoj's volley.

Towards the end of the first half both Srhoj and Brain had shots, but neither found the target. The Australians were playing a calm and patient game and with the wind behind them in the second period looked for the breakthrough.

It came ten minutes into the second period. A long throw from the right was headed on by a defender and fell to Brain. His first time shot brought another first class save from Al Ansari, but at the cost of a corner.

From this corner the ball was only half cleared. It ballooned invitingly for Jo Di Iorio just outside the box. His volley glided through the crowd of players and past the keeper to give Australia a well deserved lead.

For the next ten minutes both teams settled down and if anything the Qatar team appeared to gain the upper hand for a brief spell midway through the half.

Ali Seydna robbed the ever-sure Adrian Madaschi on the edge of the box, but he was pushed too wide to trouble Kedwell-Van Strattan.

Then with the Australians having dropped off a notch a Bilal corner kick found Waleed free in the box, yet his first time shot went agonisingly wide of the far post.

From then on the Australians consolidated and held out for a memorable win and their first Semi-Final at this level. Their opponents on Wednesday will be the United States who won a thrilling match 3-2 over arch-rivals Mexico.

In the other Semi-Final, to be played in Auckland, the two finalists from 1995 and 1997 tournaments will meet. Ghana accounted for Uruguay 3-2 on golden-goal whilst Brazil was overpowering in its thrashing of neighbours Paraguay.

Three Joeys earned yellow cards in this game and this means bad news for two of them. Bradley Groves received the first yellow card but cards for Jade North and Dylan MacAllister in the 59th and 65th minute respectively was their second for the tournament and that means automatic suspension for the semi final against the USA.

Les Scheinflug was extremely happy for the boys. "You're only as good as your opposition. We played against the wind and I knew we had to be tight at the back. I saved Di Iorio for the second half for when the opponents would tire.

"I don't think the other team had many chances. They turned us around a lot, but all they used were longballs and mainly down the wings.

"We can do better. The boys are playing with pride and spirit.

"The goal was an absolute cracker of a shot, with Di Iorio half volleying the cross and then rocketing it past the keeper," said Scheinflug.

"Joey didn't start the game because he's carrying a slight injury, but he's always good for one goal, and he managed it yet again.

"Everybody's excited with today's victory, the players, the coaching staff, and basically, a team of supposed nobodies has gone a long way – and we're not finished yet.

"The team has knitted together very well, and the opportunity of the pre-championship South American tour is really

showing, with the boys both looking and playing solidly.

"Today's performance was nothing flash and was very workman-like, but that's what World Cup means – you have to work and you have to win.

"Basically, the Aussies have done it again, we're into the last four, and while we've got one less day to recover than the Americans, that's the only down point, and I'm sure we'll forget our bruises very quickly."

Regards the next hurdle, "USA is a very sharp team. They have a few match winners so I have respect for them. They believe they're already in the final but we have something to say about that.

"I've seen the USA play many times and they played well in their quarter final victory over Mexico yesterday – they have exceptionally fast players and we'll have to be on our guard, but I hope they underestimate us."

Australia's lineup was as follows:

Van Stratten, North, Goulding, Madaschi, Byrnes, Pantelis, Brain, Srhoj, Groves (Di Iorio 46), McDonald (Kennedy 80'), MacAllister.

Australia's 1-0 win against Mali in the final game of the round robin allowed them to finish group leaders, ahead of Brazil, and have the luxury of remaining in Christchurch.

Australia decided to run with the gale (north-westerly) in the first half hoping that the predicted southerly change would hit during the match.

They exerted the early pressure on Mali, something the team had not shown in either of the two other matches. In the 11th minute a cross from Dylan MacAllister found Scott McDonald who headed wide.

Mali were continuously closed down whenever they had the ball with man-of-the-match Adrian Madaschi, who plays for Atalanta in the Italian Serie B, having a superb game as sweeper.

Yet they were still able to generate some chances throughout the match which gave the Australian some worrying moments. Kante Koly received the ball in the box in the 22nd minute and set up Mohamed Sidibe for a great chance that he skied over the bar.

Mali were to pay for this mistake when only a minute later a hesitant defence saw an attempted clearance fall to Scott McDonald behind the defence. McDonald, finding himself one-on-one with keeper Cheick Omar Bathily produced a classy finish to give the Australians the lead.

A few minutes later some very nice skills from Djibril Sidibe were not rewarded. He manoeuvred through the defence and played a one-two with Idrissa Kone before shooting low and at Jess Kedwell-Van Strattan.

With the teams changing sides at the break, the wind did not follow the Australians and so they had to soak up a whole lot of early pressure.

As early as the third minute of the half Kedwell-Van Strattan was called into action. Kone headed on a throw for Mamadou Diawara to volley, but the save was as good as the shot.

Only a few minutes later Diawara was through but then he lost control and saw the ball roll easily into the keeper's hands.

Diawara was in the heat of the action during a three minute spell where the Australians had to put out all stops to withhold the Mali barrage.

Kedwell-Van Strattan grabbed the ball off his feet and then moments later



Diawara sent a header wide. A few minutes more and Louis Brain blocked a solid Amadou Diallo shot from close quarters and finally a long shot from Mohamed Sidibe was well held by the keeper.

The introduction of live-wire player Abdoul Diallo had sparked the Mali team to life. His work down the right had set up a number of chances for his team-mates.

With under ten-minutes left Australia could have settled the match. A quick move down the left saw Shane Cansdell-Sherriff send the ball to Scott McDonald. He cut inside before finding Dylan MacAllister unmarked inside the box, but the tall attacker's shot was not well placed and gave Bathily no problems.

Mali's last chance came in the dying seconds. A throw from Dalla Mane Diallo was headed on by Souleymane Diamoutene to an unmarked Abdoul Traore, but his volley was mis-directed and flew well over the bar.

Thus ended Mali's campaign in the 1999 World Under 17 Championships. They conceded only one goal in the championships, equaled only by Brazil, but their inability to score at the other end was their downfall.

Les Scheinflug was obviously elated, especially about being able to stay in Christchurch as winners of Group C.

"It was a difficult job as I told you from the start. Everybody can beat everybody.

"I think tactically we won the game today. We played on set pieces although we got ourselves in a little bit of bother in the last five minutes. They never really looked like scoring until the last kick.

"This team has been different in that they haven't worked as much as the Under 17s. They've come along way since our Chairman sent us to South America. They've learnt a lot.

"I'm proud of them. They had guts and came through with flying colours. I'm sure they'll be a bit tired but that win will compensate for everything."

Regarding the loss of Shane Cansdell-Sherriff to a second caution, Les said "I may bring in Iain Fyfe or Lucas Pantelis".

"I think we can still improve. We haven't played as well as we can. All the Europeans have gone but the poor sheep herders from Australia are still in."

So onto the Quarter-Final against Qatar and for Les "I don't look back (regards Australia's inability to progress past the Quarter-Finals) I look forward. I don't promise anything but we have quite a good chance."

Australia has played Qatar twice before with a win a piece. In Italy in 1991 Australia lost 1-0 in the final match but still topped the group. In 1995 in Ecuador, Australia, again in the final match, easily won 3-0.

Australia's lineup was as follows:

Van Stratten, North, Cansdell-Sherriff, Goulding, Madaschi, Byrnes, Brain, MacAllister, Srhoj, Groves (Di Iorio 66 (Fyfe 86)), McDonald.

JUNIOR GIANTS TO CLASH IN SEMI FINAL



In the first quarter final of the Under 17 World Cup Grant Stantiall reports that the United States reached the semi-finals with a 3-2 win over Mexico in Auckland.

Mexico started the match strongly against favourites, the USA, and were immediately rewarded in the 3rd minute when Hector Vallejo scored from a great strike, much to the delight of the local crowd.

Then in the fifth minute some brilliant skills by Mexico's Juan Estrada left Ricardo Sanchez with time to shoot from 20 metres - his shot being saved by US keeper DJ Countess, who had to dive low very quickly to hold the ball.

US star forward Landon Donovan led the first real attack by the States in the 14th minute but was well contained by Mexican defender Julio Bracamontes. Mexico continued to attack and in the 17th minute the US defence only just managed to keep out a marauding Gerardo Baca, who was causing the Americans all sorts of problems.

Mexico were awarded a penalty in the 19th minute when Gustavo Ramirez was adjudged to have been tripped in the penalty area by Kellen Kalso. Sanchez' spot kick was saved by Countess, who dived to the left to parry the shot. Sanchez, in the thick of the action, was given then yellow card in the 22nd minute for time-wasting while preparing to take a free kick.

In the 25th minute US captain Nelson Akwari headed over the bar, much to the relief of the Mexicans.

Ramirez immediately had the Mexicans back on attack and his shot blazed over the bar a minute later.

A 28th minute free kick from Donovan deceived keeper Adolfo Cabrera who was forced to punch the ball out for a corner. Almost immediately Cabrera was forced to make a spectacular save from Kyle Beckerman.

Mexico continued to impress with some sparkling football and their close passing game, with Felix Grijalva igniting most of the attacks from the left side of the Mexican defence.

The US equalised in the 38th minute when Seth Trembly crossed a hopeful ball

towards DeMarcus Beasley who took one touch, turned and cracked a superb volley into the back of the Mexican goal.

An error by Julio Bracamontes led to some confusion between the defender and keeper Cabrera and in the 42nd minute a high ball was not cleared by Mario Perez leaving a gap for US striker Jordan Cila to sneak through and put the US into the lead.

A jinking DeBeasley run in the final minute of the half earned the US a corner which was easily cleared by Estrada before the whistle was sounded for halftime.

A 46th minute free-kick awarded to Mexico was fired across the US goalmouth, however no Mexican player was able to get the vital touch.

However, the US increased its lead in the 48th minute when an Oguchi Onyewu cross was met firmly by Beckerman who headed in to make it 3-1 to the Americans.

Countess made a good save in the 53rd minute to thwart another Mexican attack.

Mexico made a substitution in the 58th minute with Edgar Lopez coming on to replace Grijalva.

The US continued to attack the Mexicans and in the 61st minute a move started by Beckerman opened up space for Donovan to attack the goal one-on-one with Cabrera, who made a great save to deny the US striker.

A second substitution by Mexico in the 66th minute saw goalscorer Vallejo replaced by Omar Aguayo.

Mexico nearly scored in the 68th minute when Juan Estrada's rocket of a shot just flew over the bar.

Their very next attack realised a goal, scored from a corner by Yered Yanez - heading in a delightful goal for the Mexicans and getting the "Kiwi" crowd chanting for the Mexicans once more.

The Americans made a substitution in the 73rd minute, bringing on Adolfo Gregorio for Kalso and then shortly afterwards (76th minute) swapped Beckerman for Bobby Convey. Some smart play by Estrada earned Mexico a corner in the 78th minute which was cleared by the Americans.

Mexico applied more pressure in the 80th minute and were unlucky not to equalise.

The US used their final substitution in the 81st minute bringing off Cila and replacing him with Abe Thompson.

Aguayo was given the yellow card in the 85th minute by referee Batres for a foul on Donovan. And in the very next minute Perez also was shown the yellow card.

Donovan missed a sitter in the 88th minute after a strong run down the right flank by Thompson.

Referee gave Donovan the yellow card for a reckless challenge on Bracamontes in the 90th minute.

Thompson also picked up a yellow card in stoppage time for kicking the ball away, but then the whistle went for fulltime, the USA running out victors 3-2 in a pulsating quarterfinal match.

The USA now travel to Christchurch to meet Australia in the semi-final.

USA: Countess, Kalso (Gregorio 74'), Beasley, Akwari, Cutler, Jackson, Donovan, Onyewu, Beckerman (Convey 77'), Cila (Thompson 81'), Trembly.

Mexico: Cabrera, Grijalva (Lopez 58'), Bracamontes, Perez, Parada, Vallejo (Aguayo 66'), Estrada, Sanchez, Galindo, Ramirez (Hernandez 71'), Yanez.

In the second quarter final played on Saturday the beaten finalists of the

previous Under 17 World Cup, held in Egypt, Ghana were made to work hard for their victory when they defeated South American giants Uruguay 3-2 with a golden goal in the 108th minute.

One of the favourites for this year's Cup Ghana were put on the backfoot early in the game when Lawrence Kainya was dismissed in the 16th minute forcing the Africans to play a man short for most of the game.

This was the second setback for the African champions as Uruguay took the lead in the 9th minute.

Ghana showed their champion mettle when they took the lead after scoring two goals within the space of eleven minutes. In the 35th minute Ishmael Addo equalised and then in injury time of the first half Bernard Dong-Bortey put the young Africans into the lead.

In the 65th minute Uruguay drew level at two each when substitute Sergio Leal scored a goal - that score-line remained until the end of normal time and it was Uruguay who felt the brunt of the referee's whistle when in the 102nd minute he sent off midfielder and captain Horacio Peralta.

With the same number of players the Ghana team grew in confidence and allowed them to attack more and it wasn't long before they scored the golden goal. It was Addo again who scored in the 108th minute for his second goal of the game to secure his team a semi-final spot for the fourth time in a row.

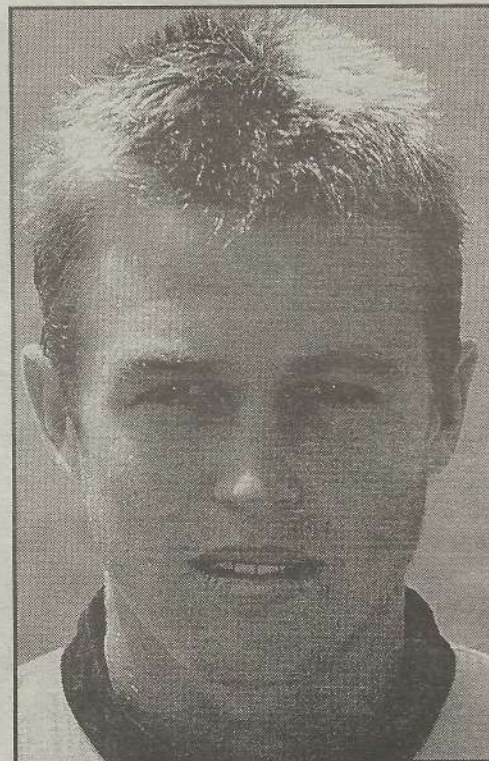
Ghana's victory propels them onto their next task - the semi final showdown with the might of Brazil's best youngsters.

Ghana: Owusu, Kainya, Essien, Attiuku, Osei (Donkor 68), Lamptey, Ibrahim, Obodai, Tetteh, Addo, Dong-Bortey.

Uruguay: Silva, Martinez (Portillo 93), Meneses, Jacques, Lapolla, Alvarez, Garcia, Olivera, Peralta, Novegil (Leal 46), Alonso.

In the last quarter final Brazil went into the clash with fellow South Americans Paraguay as overwhelming favourites and justified their standing with a dominating performance to run out 4-1 winners.

Brazilian striker Leonardo was the star



Australia's Dylan MacAllister. The star Joey plays at Ian Rush's Sydney Olympic.

with a hat-trick whilst substitute Caca scored in the last minute of normal time.

Early dominance for Brazil paid off when Leonardo netted at the back post after 25 minutes. His second came 11 minutes later in almost identical fashion before Da Silva pulled a goal back for Paraguay near half-time.

Leonardo completed his hat-trick right before the hour heading home a pin point cross. Paraguay had little answer for the physically strong Brazilians who scored a fourth in the final seconds.

The Brazilians now go on to play Ghana the semi-final in Auckland - these two teams can't seem to stay away from each other as they have met in both of the last two finals in 1997 and 1995.

Brazil: Rubinho, Ricardo, Eduardo, Anderson, Leo (Wellington 87), Walker, Souza (Adriano 69), Caca, Carlos Henrique (Leite 46), Matheus, Leonardo.

Paraguay: Caballero, De Vaca, Melgarejo, Farina, Fretes, Guzman, Da Silva, Figueredo (Moreno 62), Geurrero, Vera (Villalba 70), Cabrera (Ferreira 79).



Germany's Lars Finke ... on his way home after his team finished third in the Jokeys' group.

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F:A	P
United States	3	2	1	0	4:2	7
Uruguay	3	1	1	1	6:2	4
New Zealand	3	1	0	2	3:8	3
Poland	3	0	2	1	3:4	2

New Zealand vs. United States 1:2 (1:0)

Uruguay vs. Poland 1:1 (0:0)
New Zealand vs. Uruguay 0:5 (0:2)
United States vs. Poland 1:1 (0:1)
Poland vs. New Zealand 1:2 (0:0)
United States vs. Uruguay 1:0 (0:0)

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F:A	P
Ghana	3	2	1	0	12:2	7
Mexico	3	2	0	1	5:4	6
Spain	3	1	1	1	7:2	4
Thailand	3	0	0	3	1:17	0

Ghana vs. Spain 1:1 (1:0)
Mexico vs. Thailand 4:0 (2:0)
Spain vs. Thailand 6:0 (4:0)
Ghana vs. Mexico 4:0 (1:0)
Thailand vs. Ghana 1:7 (0:4)
Spain vs. Mexico 0:1 (0:1)

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F:A	P
Australia	3	2	0	1	4:3	6
Brazil	3	1	2	0	2:1	5
Germany	3	0	2	1	1:2	2
Mali	3	0	2	1	0:1	2

Brazil vs. Australia 2:1 (1:0)
Mali vs. Germany 0:0
Australia vs. Germany 2:1 (0:1)
Brazil vs. Mali 0:0
Germany vs. Brazil 0:0
Australia vs. Mali 1:0 (1:0)

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F:A	P
Paraguay	3	2	1	0	9:2	7
Qatar	3	2	0	1	6:3	6
Burkina Faso	3	1	1	1	4:4	4
Jamaica	3	0	0	3	0:10	0

Jamaica vs. BurkinaFaso 0:1 (0:1)
Paraguay vs. Qatar 2:0 (1:0)
Burkina Faso vs. Qatar 1:2 (0:1)
Jamaica vs. Paraguay 0:5 (0:4)
Qatar vs. Jamaica 4:0 (0:0)
Burkina Faso vs. Paraguay 2:2 (0:2)

VIDUKA LEADS BUOYANT SOCCEROOS IN VASTLY IMPROVED SHOWING

Alan Clark's
summary of events last
Wednesday night

AUSTRALIA 2

Agostino 11, 60

BRAZIL 2

Ronaldinho 74, Fabio Junior 86

WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT THE MCG (GAME TWO)

Crowd: 79,795



The 'Roos' were pumped-up at the 'G'

At 79,795 it was just a bus-load or two shy of a capacity crowd which crammed in to the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Wednesday night to watch Australia draw 2-2 with Brazil in the second of the two-match series against the South American glamour side.

Were Australia to have won the match - which for long periods of the contest seemed the more likely outcome - not one spectator present would have thought it undeserved.

Despite the vastness of the crowd, it was subdued for most of the game.

But as Australia took a 2-0 lead and then the visitors scrambled two late goals to draw level, spectators' involvement intensified, especially for those who saw in the unfolding of these events, a story that had been played out at this very ground almost exactly two years prior.

The déjà vu was enhanced by the Socceroos' barnstorming start and by the unwelcome and concentration-breaking invasion of the pitch by a spectator as Australia was pressing to advance the lead from two goals to a game-deciding three.

But it wasn't the auguries that conspired to create the result, nor was it a cosmic rewind; it was the inspired introduction of Brazil's first-game stars as late second-half substitutes by Brazil coach Wanderley Luxemburgo which turned the game.

Ronaldinho, Alex, and Fabio Junior re-invigorated the Brazil attack, which had become stale and had run out of ideas, expertly held at bay by a confident Australian back-line comprising the experienced trio of Craig Moore, Tony Vidmar, and Kevin Muscat, joined this game by Steve Laybutt who has made an impressive start at national team level. But with Brazil's fresh players coming on to confront a now tiring defence, the holes were quickly created and exploited.

Denilson, who had been marked out of the Sydney match by a tenacious Muscat, and had accordingly been disinclined to show-off his much-vaunted dribbling skills for fear of the attentions of Muscat in the tackle, now found he could exert his influence, which proved critical to Brazil's attainment of both goals.

The fact that the crowd would have left disappointed in the result was attribute to how much this Australian side had improved since the first game, despite the off-field and tangential issues an unfair media used to cast doubt on the worthiness of this national selection. Australia would not have been flattered by a win, nor a decisive win either - for most of the match it had been they, rather than their

more fancied opponents who had the greater range of footballing skills, and the higher level of football awareness.

This Australian selection put together moves of skill and precision, and combined that with the solid, no-nonsense defence which had so clearly rattled the Brazilians in the first match.

So it was no bunch of cloggers that were wearing our national strip.

This midfield combined with greater fluidity than in Sydney, perhaps because in Melbourne, new captain Paul Okon was the clear focus of most creative play, whereas in Sydney, the pairing of Okon with his play-making team-mate - the now poutingly retired Ned Zelic - had seemed to produce a sum less than its constituent parts.

It's no state secret that neither Okon nor Zelic have much time for each other off the park, and mutually and pointedly ignore each other's presence, even for the normal courtesies exchanged between colleagues. This personal breakdown

wasn't so obvious on the park, but perhaps was affecting team play.

Now with Zelic seemingly out of the picture - although most fans would rather he reconsider his hasty decision - it may be that the absence of this distraction will allow a better team focus, even if the absence of Zelic's undoubtedly sublime skills will be mourned.

And it was a bad game for Zelic to miss - the fact that the team

on the night did not miss him is just one more chapter in the book of the team being greater than the player.

It's a fact that we hope our idols have none of the vices and personality quirks that affect all humans, and we are saddened when we discover they do, as in Zelic's response to new coach Frank Farina's preferring of Okon as captain in the absence of injured and returned-home goalkeeper Mark Bosnich.

It is the same response we have to the national team commitment levels of

Harry Kewell - we want him to put his interests aside in favour of those which would have him a regular Socceroo.

Zelic and Kewell may well have dealt themselves out of Farina's further attentions, as those called into the team as a consequence of their absence - notably domestic-based Marconi captain Brad Maloney who, along with Paul Trimboli, is surely the best player never to have played for a club overseas, shone in Melbourne taking up a role Kewell may have hoped would be reserved for him.

Danny Tiatto once again showed he could be an indispensable part of the

that are even marginally wrong.

Kalac might have been able to deal with both balls earlier in their flight before the ultimate headers that gained Brazil their goals, but he would correctly say that playing the game on paper is always easier than playing it in and around the six-yard box.

So we have the basis of a very good Australian team - the combination of Viduka and Agostino is a pairing of two strong players with excellent close control and a desire for the direct path to the goal. Not for a while has a national team looked more consistently dangerous in attack, confident in defence, and creative in mid-field. Maybe this will be the subject of some discussion between Agostino and Zelic in the dressing-rooms of their club, 1860 Munich, during the remainder of this Bundesliga season.

For the record Agostino scored with a powerful header with a mere eleven minutes having elapsed after Muscat had reached the bye-line and then found Viduka with his back to goal inside the penalty-area and with a Brazilian defender preventing the big striker from turning.

Viduka chose instead to juggle the ball, then send it over his head to where Agostino powered home the game's opener.

Australia stretched its lead after a sustained period of pressure which had the Brazilian defence reeling. Just moments before, Agostino had singled Alexandre's fingers with a free-kick that rocketed its way goalwards, and even despite the touch, still crashed off the bar. From the resultant corner, swung in by Maloney, Agostino bundled the ball over the line from close-in at the near post.

With fifteen minutes remaining, and with the game's balance tipping Brazil's way as a result of the introduction over a frenetic four minute period of five fresh players from the bench, Denilson's ability with the ball at his feet finally paid off.

An obviously one-footed player, Denilson didn't allow this handicap to prevent him sending over a whipped cross from the left wing into the goal area with his left foot as he ran parallel with the front of the penalty-area, where it fell for Ronaldinho at the far post after clipping Moore who contested the ball with Alex on the way through.

Ronaldinho's header was a regulation chance at this level of the game.

As minds recalled the World Cup elimination game of 1997, it was as if the crowd accepted the inevitability of Brazil's equaliser four minutes from time. Once again it was a goal aerially-delivered. Ronaldinho had been at the heart of it, earning a free-kick after a bewildering spin which deceived his markers only to be fouled.

The Australian defence could only ever half-clear the ball and Ronaldinho again gathered and sent a ball into the box where Fabio Junior outjumped Moore, by now exhausted from his marking endeavours, to head past Kalac.

Perhaps the draw was a better result for Australia in the longer term, as it may mean future opponents don't do enough research, and, as a consequence, find themselves very much under-estimating the enormous and obvious potential of this Australian team.

*ALL PICS OF GAME TWO BY MATT CURTIS



Paul Agostino storms through a bewildered Brazil defence. The German-based striker has struck up a beautiful partnership with Viduka.



Muscat and Denilson clash.

Match Stats

AUSTRALIA: Kalac, Muscat, Moore, Laybutt, Vidmar, Maloney (Emerton 81), Okon (c) (Foxe 80), Skoko (Johnson 80), Tiatto, Agostino, Viduka (Babic 73).

Subs not used: Corica, Mori, Bolton, Cardozo.
Scorer: Agostino (11, 60).

Yellow cards: Tiatto (90+)

BRAZIL: Alexandre, Michel (Alex 62), Milton de O, Jean (Alvaro 60), Athirson, Marcos Paulo, Mozart, Adriano (Fabio Junior 58), Warley, Lincoln (Ronaldinho 58), Denilson (c).

Mancini was brought on in the 62nd minute but I failed to see who he substituted. Subs not used: Renato, Fabio Bilica, Silvio.

Scorers: Ronaldinho (74), Fabio Junior (86)

Yellow Cards: Alex (75)
Referee: Eddie Lennie.
Crowd: 79,795

MOTM:

3. VIDUKA,
2. Denilson
1. Okon.

By Alan Clark

Mark Fisher's player analysis

PLAYER RATINGS (OUT OF TEN):



Agostino on the loose in Melbourne

AUSTRALIA

Kalac 7: Fairly solid in goals. Pulled out a good one-on-one save against Warley.

Moore 5: Workmanlike.

Okon 7.5: Terrific in the centre. Marshalled the back four quite well. (Foxe 80")

Laybutt 5.5: Credible performance, improving with each game.

Vidmar 5.5: Looked more comfortable in a left back role.

Muscat 6.5: More grit, less rough stuff this time round.

Skoko 7: Teamed well in attack. (Johnson 80")

Maloney 4.5: Inaccurate passing at times. (Emerton 86")

Tiatto 7: Incisive running; unfazed by big name opponents.

Viduka 9: World class, exuding strength, skill and vision. (Babic 74")

Agostino 7.5: Lifted as a result of Viduka's presence. His two goals justified Farina's faith in him.

BRAZIL

Alexandre 6.5: Grew in confidence as the match progressed.

Michel 4: Struggled against Agostino and Viduka. (Fabio Junior 63" 7.5: Dangerous late in the match.)

Jean 5: Marginally better game than Michel. (Alvaro 60" 6: A timely replacement.)

Milton de O 6.5: The best performed defender for Brazil.

Marcos Paulo 7.5: Very good in midfield.

Athirson 7: One to watch in the future.

Adriano 7: Lightning fast. (Ronaldinho 58" 7: Saved his best until late.)

Mozart 6: Honest effort, although troubled by Okon at times.

Warley 7: Threatened to score in the first half. (Mancini 63" 6: Fairly quiet game.)

Lincoln 6: Had difficulty penetrating the Australian defence. (Alex 58" 7: Class act.)

Denilson 8.5: Again too slippery to contain for long. Inspired Brazil's late rallies.

"

Corners: Aust 6 Brazil 3

Offsides: Aust 1 Brazil 3

Shots: Aust 9 Brazil 6



Stand-in skipper Paul Okon. The Fiorentina player was majestic.

Shots on Goal: Aust 6 Brazil 3

Fouls: Aust 28 Brazil 33

Actual Playing Time: 55 minutes (1st Half: 30 minutes, 2nd Half: 25 minutes).

Talking Heads

The media conference after the game with Inside Soccer's Mark Fisher



FRANK FARINA

"Obviously we were a bit disappointed to end up 2-2, but in general the performance was outstanding, exceptional. Paul and Skoko were very good in the middle of the park.

"The back four played very well to a new system (4-4-2) which the national team hasn't played in a number of years. So, in general I was very pleased with the performance."

can see us playing that system again. Obviously, it depends on the personnel you have got as well."

Frank Farina on the results in the series against Brazil:

"I don't like to lose games or to lose leads, but it's better to do that now than in the future."

Frank Farina talking about Mark Viduka:

"Mark Viduka is a fantastic striker, one of the best in the world at the moment.

You saw why out there tonight. Mark loves being back in Melbourne, and as he came off he said to the blokes, 'You see - Melbourne is the best place in the world. Just look at the crowd that has turned out.'

Frank Farina on Ned Zelic's walkout: "I was a bit disappointed with , but that will be sorted out within the next few days.

I've still got a very high opinion of Ned Zelic, as I always have. Unfortunately, these things happen. I'd say give us a bit of time and we'll sort it out. It was probably a rash decision by Ned, but these things are sent to test us".

PAUL OKON

Q: What did you see as the difference between the Sunday game and tonight's?

"It is always difficult playing a Brazilian team. What we tried to do was not give them too much space - to not let them play.

It's difficult for the whole ninety minutes to press, to chase and to work hard. We didn't do that on Sunday, yet we did try to do it tonight.

Unfortunately, in the last 15 minutes they probably had more of the ball than they did in the first 70 minutes of the match, and they managed to get two

goals as a result".

WANDERLEY LUXEMBURGO

"We were very impressed today by the play, by the game, and also by the number of fans that came to the match. Also, if we qualify for the Olympics we would like to play Australia again before the Games."

Luxemburgo on the refereeing in the series:

"It was a change of referee and a change of name, but on the field we saw exactly the same thing that we saw in Sydney."

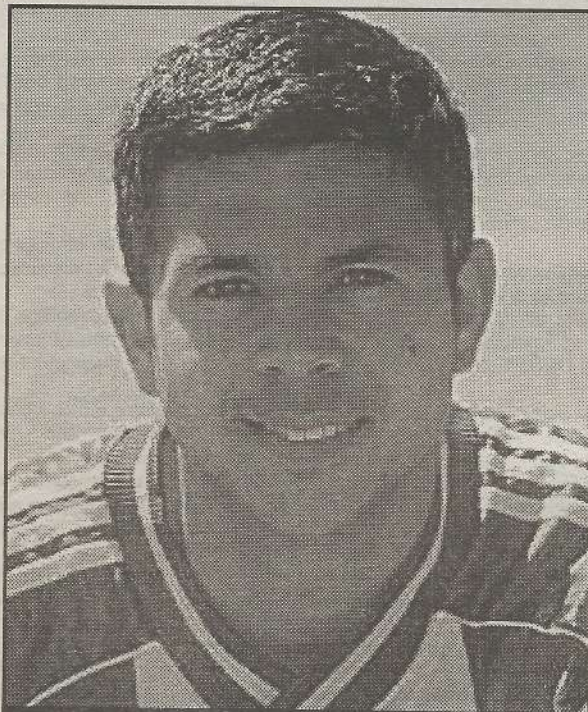
DENILSON

"We knew we would face difficulties after Ronaldo left, but we found ourselves displaying a high level of professionalism and skill. This is the starting point of the work we have to do from now on".

RONALDINHO

"We played according to the coach's wishes. We go out of Australia with one victory and one draw, and this is very good for us in our quest for the Olympic gold medal."

ZELIC RESTED AFTER DUMMY SPIT



Steve Corica ... in the starting line up for Wolverhampton.



Craig Moore... another sterling performance for Rangers.

With most of the Aussies Abroad away from their clubs during the week most of the news was with the Australian-Brazil games. The player making most of the headlines was of course Ned Zelic with his now infamous walkout, and subsequent retirement, from the Australian squad.

Zelic was one of the players that got back to his team in plenty of time to take his place for the weekend games. His team TSV Munchen played on Sunday and Zelic, though, was rested, as were a number of other Australian players that featured in the games against Brazil.

Zelic's team mate Paul Agostino, the scorer of two goals against the Brazil Olympic team in the second game, suffered the same fate and was not part of Munchen's 3-0 away loss to Duisburg.

The player who did not make the Australian team from Germany, David Zdrilic, did take part in his SSV Ulm's 2-0 loss to Stuttgart. Zdrilic played the whole game as his team slid further towards the relegation zone.

The other Aussie in Germany, Joe Simunic, wasn't part of Hamburg's demolition of Arminia Bielefeld to the tune of five goals to nil.

Paul Okon, on the other hand, stayed with the team and stated his case for future captaincy of the national team with a great performance in the second game. Okon arrived back later than Zelic and his team saw fit to give him a rest as he was left out of the Fiorentina team that beat Perugia 1-0 in the Italian Serie A game on the weekend.

The two Aussie players in the Serie B, Marco Bresciano and Vince Grella, were also away from their team, Empoli, playing for the Olyroo team in Tunisia where the Aussies won the first game and drew the second game. Like Okon, both players were rested from their team who were beaten three goals to one by Genoa.

In the Greek first division Bill Damianos, another Olyroo absent in Tunisia during the week, was part of the Xanthi team that beat Kavala by 1-0. Damianos was replaced in the 68th

minute.

In the English Premier League there was a tale of two 'keepers with our number one and two custodians having very different weekends.

Mark Schwarzer the Middlesbrough 'keeper played the whole game in his team's 5-1 away loss to title chasing Arsenal. Schwarzer did save a penalty in the game although a goal was scored from the rebound.

On the other hand, the number one 'keeper, and captain for the first game against Brazil, Mark Bosnich did not recover from his injury in time for Manchester United's game against Derby which they

won two goal to one. Bosnich's early return from the tour and the subsequent absence from the United team will, more than likely, cause more problems in the future as the players, and their clubs, will be even more reluctant to return to play for Australia.

The other player that created the most news during the Brazil series, or should that be before the games, Harry Kewell was, of course, absent from the Leeds United team that won 2-1 at home against Bradford. Kewell was suspended from the game by FIFA as he made himself unavailable for the series. Leeds did make a late appeal to FIFA claiming that the five day rule ended the day before the game as Kewell was only intending to play the first game. FIFA rejected the appeal although after the game Leeds manager David O'Leary said that the ban did not have an impact as Kewell was still 'injured'.

going down 2-1 away to Barnsley.

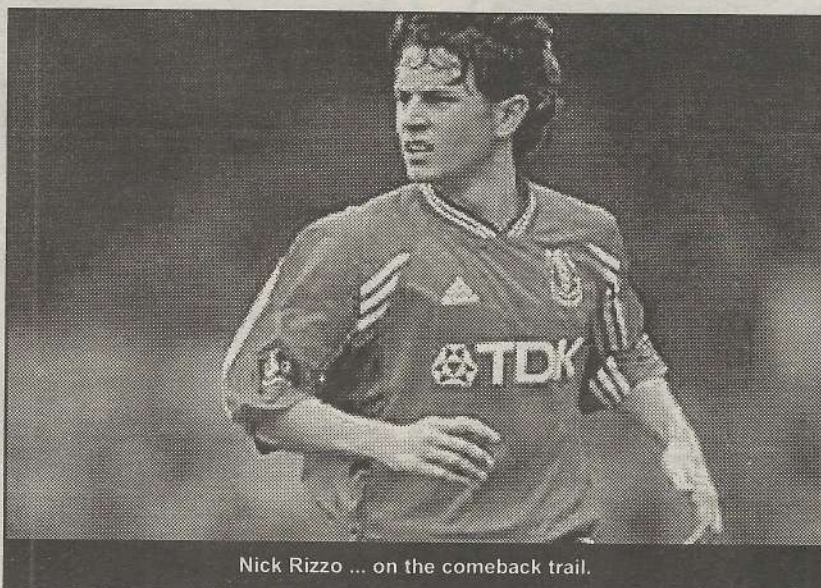
After a bright start to the season Birmingham are slipping down the table and their hopes for promotion to the Premier League are fading fast.

John Filan, after having been dropped after the change of managers at Blackburn, remained on the bench as his team won 2-0 at home to Fulham. Blackburn are situated in the bottom half of the table and are only four points in front of the last placed team.

The Australian star of the Brazil series, Danny Tiatto, who had two good games for the national team was a starter in Manchester City's 0-1 away victory over fellow title aspirants Charlton. Tiatto was replaced in the 70th minute. City is currently two points in front of Huddersfield and four points in front of Charlton, although they have played one game less than Huddersfield but one game more than Charlton. This away victory over Charlton could well prove to be crucial in the long run home to the championship.

The second placed Huddersfield played West Bromwich Albion which featured Jason Van Blerk who played for the whole game whilst compatriot Andrew McDermott, recently a regular starter for the team, sat on the bench for the whole game.

Crystal Palace's first win for a number of weeks last week coincided with the return of Craig Foster who came on early in the game and was praised for a great performance. In Palace's game on the weekend against Port Vale Foster started the game but was replaced, ironically, by



Nick Rizzo ... on the comeback trail.

Australian debutant in the Brazil game Richard Johnson was also absent from Watford's one-all draw at home to Newcastle.

In the Nationwide Division One games Stan Lazaridis, after coming on as a substitute and scoring a goal in his comeback game from injury, started the game for Birmingham but was unable to prevent his team from

fellow Aussie Nick Rizzo, himself on his way back from injury, in the 55th minute. Palace continued on last week's better form with a 2-2 away draw at the Vale.

Like Blackburn, both West Brom and Crystal Palace are in the bottom half of the table and by no means safe from the relegation zone.

In Crewe Alexander's 2-0 away win at Portsmouth two Aussies were featured, with Jason Kearton keeping the clean

sheet for Crewe whilst Mike Panopolous started the game against Portsmouth but was replaced in the 62nd minute. The other Aussie 'keeper, Andy Petterson, a regular until recently, was on the bench for Portsmouth.

Crewe is an even worse situation as it sits third from bottom only one point away from the bottom team while Portsmouth is in the congested bottom half of the field.

Shaun Murphy was again in his regular central defensive position for Sheffield United, another team in the danger zone, one spot and one point in front of Crewe. United had a good result as it drew 1-1 away to Stockport.

In the Wolverhampton Wanderers - Swindon game three Aussies were featured in the one-all draw. Frank Talia was in the Swindon goal providing the away team with a great performance as he kept out his fellow Aussies Kevin Muscat and Steve Corica, both of whom featured in the Brazil game. Corica was replaced in the 70th minute with his replacement providing the home team with the equalising goal.

Wolves are sitting comfortably in mid-table after a slow start to the season while Swindon is bringing up the rear in Division One.

In the AXA FA Cup Reading's 1-1 draw with Halifax featured Andrew Bernal who played a full game.

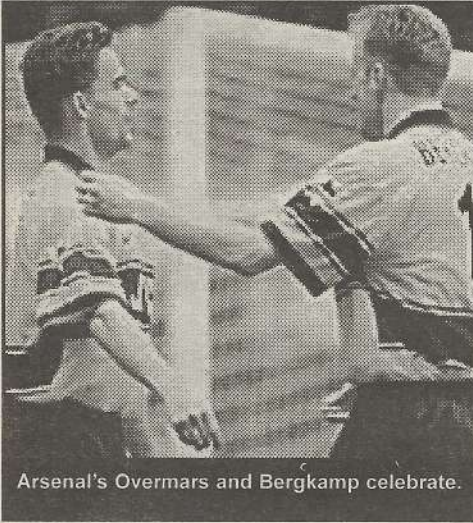
In the Scottish Premier League Mark Viduka, after a superlative performance in the second Brazil game, was left out of the Celtic squad that won 1-2 away to Hearts with a late goal.

In the Rangers 2-0 win over Hibernian Craig Moore was again at the heart of his team's defence, but received a yellow card, while fellow Aussie Tony Vidmar was not included in the squad.

In the Scottish Premier League Rangers is leading by one point over Celtic but have a game in hand over their nearest challengers.

In other news neither of the other Aussies Raphael Bove nor Stuart Lovell were part of their team's squad for the weekend games.

OVERMARS HAT-TRICK IN ARSENAL ROMP



Arsenal's Overmars and Bergkamp celebrate.

England's forgotten man Andy Cole struck again for Manchester United against 10 men Derby to keep the champions on top of the Premier League table with a 2-1 win over at Pride Park.

Sir Alex Ferguson's half-time talk worked wonders as Nicky Butt put United in front with a deflected volley eight minutes after the break.

Cole, left on the bench by Kevin Keegan at Wembley in midweek, rammed in a header from six yards out and newly capped Republic of Ireland international Rory Delap's reply was too little, too late.

Chelsea were in trouble from the start against Everton when they lost Gabriele Ambrosetti with an injury in the first minute.

Kevin Campbell put Everton in front before Frank Leboeuf, at fault for the goal, was sent off for a second bookable offence. Everton dominated the game only for Tore Andre Flo to grab a late, late equaliser.

Middlesbrough had not won at Highbury for 60 years and never looked like re-writing history as Marc Overmars grabbed a hat-trick in a 5-1 romp for Arsenal.

Overmars gave Arsenal the lead after 26 minutes then set up Dennis Bergkamp five minutes before the break. Bergkamp made it 3-0 early in the second half and Overmars hit home the rebound after his penalty was saved by Mark Schwarzer and then sealed his hat-trick. Hamilton Ricard took advantage of a rare defensive lapse for a consolation effort.

Sunderland were beaten at home for the first time in 12 months, laid out by a stunning individual goal from Michael Owen, who set up a 2-0 win.

Liverpool were outplayed for long periods but maintained a record of not losing at Sunderland since 1958 and Patrik Berger made sure there would be no fight-back with a clinical right-foot finish.

Bradford, who had not won at Elland Road in nine previous visits, extended the sequence in a poor derby contest, which saw Leeds run out 2-1 winners.

Alan Smith gave Leeds the lead and struggling City knew their luck was out when Leeds got a penalty, converted by Ian Harte. Dean Windass reduced the arrears close to the whistle.

Two goals in a minute set Filbert Street alight, Marcus Gayle running clear to put Wimbledon in front only for Tony Cottee to equalise and the little man made it six goals in four consecutive home games with winner after 58 minutes.

Tottenham ended a sequence of one victory in seven previous visits to The Dell with a winner from Oyvind Leonhardsen. But Southampton felt hard done by when they were denied a penalty after Marian Pahars was challenged in the box by Leonhardsen, only to be booked for diving and the game finished 1-0 to Spurs.

It took Watford and Newcastle some time to get going at Vicarage Road where Michel Ngongue gave the home side the lead only for Nikos Dabizas to equalise. It ended 1-1.

In the Sunday game West Ham came back from behind to leave 10-man Sheffield Wednesday heartbroken as they suffered a 4-3 defeat at Upton Park.

In Nationwide Division One Manchester City stayed on top thanks to a Shaun Goater winner in a cracker at The Valley.

The Bermuda international's effort two minutes after the break sank Charlton in a thriller watched by a full house.

Huddersfield stayed on the heels of the leaders thanks to Dutchman Dean Gorre, who netted his third goal in two home games, to polish off West Brom who did the double over Town last season.

Barnsley, reinforced with Manchester United's Under-21 international John Curtis, were two in front before Birmingham got in on

the act.

Eric Tinkler gave Dave Bassett's boys the lead after 51 minutes with a left-foot shot from 22 yards and Craig Hignett converted a penalty after Bruce Dyer was upended in the penalty area. Birmingham hit back through John McCarthy's 70th-minute effort but despite late pressure, could not force the equaliser and went down 2-1.

Fulham had Danny Cadamarteri sent off at Ewood Park which ensured they could not reply to Egil Ostenstad's winner after 11 minutes. The Norwegian slid in to force home a cross from Damien Duff.

Nottingham Forest's travel troubles continued with a drubbing by Tranmere and to add to their injuries Andy Johnson was sent off. Clint Hill gave Rovers the lead after 53 minutes, Wayne Allison added a second and David Kelly scored at the death.

Swindon were nine minutes away from causing the upset of the day. They led Wolves by Iffy Onuora's 27th-minute penalty and looked like hanging on at Molineux until Havard Flo, cousin of Chelsea hero Tore Andre, equalised.

Bolton's great Dane Bo Hansen notched a double to sink Grimsby, beaten for the seventh time on their travels. Hansen opened the scoring five minutes into the second half and provided the insurance goal 19 minutes later.

Port Vale were twice in front against Crystal Palace, who fought back for a deserved point. Tony Rougier opened the scoring for Vale after 20 minutes, Leon Mackenzie squared things in the second half only for Martin Foyle to restore the lead after 78 minutes. Matt Svensson grabbed a point for Palace two minutes from time.

Bottom-of-the-table Crewe sprang a surprise by grabbing three points at Portsmouth for their second away win of the campaign.

Rodney Jack scored Crewe's first goal in four games in the first half and Paul Tait wrapped up a 2-0 win in the second.

All the goals came in the first half at Loftus Road where QPR maintained their unbeaten home record with a win over Walsall.

Stuart Wardley gave Rangers the lead after half-an-hour and Chris Kiwomya added a second three minutes later. Michael Ricketts got one back for the Saddlers four minutes from half-time.

Stockport's Chris Byrne was sent off for serious foul play and struggling Sheffield United took advantage to grab the lead through Marcus

Bent after 17 minutes. But they couldn't hold out against non-stop attacks and Laurent D'Jaffo equalised after 61 minutes.

In the Sunday game arch rivals Ipswich and Norwich drew 0-0.

Celtic eased the pressure on head coach John Barnes with a dramatic 2-1 win at Hearts.

The Bhoys were heading for a fifth defeat in their last seven games when Scottish international midfielder Colin Cameron put Hearts ahead after just three minutes.

But on the hour mark Cameron clashed off the ball with Johan Mjallby and was dismissed and Celtic suddenly had a lifeline.

On-loan Ian Wright took full advantage by levelling after 71 minutes and Lubo Moravcik added a priceless winner just three minutes from time.

Rangers stay top after goals either side of half-time by Jonatan Johansson and Jorg Albertz sealed victory over Hibernian.

Rangers made the breakthrough in the 34th minute when Albertz fed Neil McCann with a delightful pass and his cross was powered home by Johansson.

Rangers needed only one minute of the second half to extend their lead when Gabriel Amato was fouled on the edge of the area and Albertz fired in a stunning curling free kick.

Motherwell extended their unbeaten run to five games with a deserved 1-0 win over Dundee at Dens Park.

It was Lee McCulloch, subject of recent transfer speculation, who grabbed the important first half goal which may just have pushed up his transfer value.

The home side had debutant Nicky Banger, a first-half substitute, sent off to compound the misery of the Dark Blues.

Kilmarnock and Dundee United shared the points in a 1-1 at Rugby Park.

Ian Durrant missed a first-half spot kick for the home side but when Killie were awarded their second penalty of the match when Ally Mitchell was impeded, Christophe Cocard stepped up and sent the penalty kick into the corner of the net after 49 minutes.

But a quarter of an hour later, David Hannah grabbed an equaliser for the Tangerines.

St Johnstone and Aberdeen fought out a 1-1 draw in Sunday's Scottish Premier clash.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Man Utd	15	10	3	2	35	20	33	15
Leeds	15	10	2	3	28	19	32	9
Arsenal	15	9	2	4	26	15	29	11
Sunderland	15	8	4	3	24	14	28	10
Liverpool	15	8	3	4	20	12	27	8
Tottenham	14	8	2	4	24	18	26	6
Leicester	15	8	2	5	25	20	26	5
Middlesbrough	15	7	1	7	20	23	22	-3
Chelsea	13	6	3	4	19	11	21	8
West Ham	14	6	3	5	16	14	21	2
Everton	15	5	5	5	24	22	20	2
Aston Villa	14	5	3	6	13	16	18	-3
Coventry	14	4	5	5	21	16	17	5
Southampton	14	4	4	6	20	24	16	-4
Wimbledon	15	3	7	5	22	29	16	-7
Newcastle	15	3	4	8	25	29	13	-4
Bradford	14	3	3	8	12	23	12	-11
Derby	15	3	3	9	14	26	12	-12
Watford	15	3	2	10	11	25	11	-14
Sheff Wed	16	1	3	12	13	36	6	-23

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Man City	18	12	3	3	27	11	39	16
Huddersfield	19	11	4	4	37	20	37	17
Charlton	17	11	2	4	32	18	35	14
Barnsley	18	11	1	6	35	27	34	8
Ipswich	18	8	5	5	31	22	29	9
Bolton	18	8	5	5	28	19	29	9
QPR	18	7	7	4	26	22	28	4
Fulham	18	7	7	4	20	16	28	4
Stockport	18	7	7	4	23	24	28	-1
Birmingham	18	7	6	5	28	21	27	7
Wolverhampton	17	6	8	3	19	16	26	3
Norwich	18	6	7	5	16	15	25	1

Tranmere	19	6	5	8	26	27	23	-1
West Brom	17	4	9	4	16	17	21	-1
Portsmouth	19	5	5	9	25	33	20	-8
Blackburn	16	4	7	5	19	18	19	1
Grimsby	18	5	4	9	17	30	19	-13
Nottm Forest	18	4	6	8	21	24	18	-3
Crystal Palace	18	4	6	8	25	32	18	-7
Port Vale	19	4	5	10	21	28	17	-7
Sheff Utd	18	4	5	9	20	30	17	-10
Crewe	17	4	4	9	17	27	16	-10
Walsall	19	3	6	10	15	30	15	-15
Swindon	19	3	6	10	13	30	15	-17

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Wigan	17	10	7	0	35	15	37	20
Brentford	17	9	6	2	30	17	33	13
Preston	17	9	6	2	26	17	33	9
Notts County	17	10	3	4	24	15	33	9
Burnley	17	9	5	3	24	11	32	13
Bristol Rovers	17	9	5	3	19	11	32	8
Gillingham	17	8	5	4	31	21	29	10
Stoke	17	8	5	4	24	16	29	8
Millwall	17	7	6	4	26	19	27	7
Luton	17	8	3	6	23	20	27	3
Bury	17	5	8	4	26	21	23	5
Wycombe	17	5	7	5	22	22	22	0
Bournemouth	17	6	4	7	21	25	22	-4
Scunthorpe	17	5	4	8	18	26	19	-8
Oldham	17	5	3	9	19	23	18	-4
Wrexham	17	4	5	8	17	30	17	-13
Bristol City	16	3	7	6	16	21	16	-5
Cardiff	17	3	7	7	18	24	16	-6
Oxford Utd	17	4	4	9	17	23	16	-6
Reading	16	4	3	9	21	33	15	-12
Cambridge Utd	17	3	5	9	26	31	14	-5
Colchester	17	3	5	9	19	38	14	-19
Blackpool	17	2	6	9	17	31	12	-14
Chesterfield	17	2	5	10	11	20	11	-9

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Peterborough	18	10	4	4	27	19	34	8
Barnet	17	9	4	4	23	20	31	3
Rotherham	17	9	3	5	25	11	30	14
Torquay	17	9	3	5	21	17	30	4
Darlington	17	8	5	4	19	12	29	7
Plymouth	17	8	5	4	24	18	29	6
Macclesfield	18	8	4	6	27	23	28	4
Halifax	17	8	3	6	21	18	27	3
Northampton	17	8	3	6	16	13	27	3
Southend	17	8	3	6	24	22	27	2
Brighton	17	7	5	5	24	15	26	9
Hartlepool	17	8	1	8	22	17	25	5
Swansea	17	7	4	6	17	14	25	3
Lincoln City	17	7	4	6	27	26	25	1
Rochdale	17	7	3	7	13	10	24	3
Exeter	17	6	4	7	18	17	22	1
Hull	17	5	5	7	14	17	20	-3
York	17	5	5	7	17	24	20	-7
Mansfield	17	5	4	8	23	27	19	-4
Cheltenham	17	5	3	9	13	18	18	-5
Carlisle	17	3	6	8	17	29	15	-12
Leyton Orient	17	3	4	10	14	27	13	-13
Shrewsbury	17	3	4	10	14	29	13	-15
Chester	17	3	3	11	16	33	12	-17

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Rangers	12	11	1	0	36	10	34	26
Celtic	13	10	0	3	36	11	30	25
Dundee Utd	14	7	3	4	21	19	24	2
Motherwell	13	5	5	3	20	20	20	0
Hibernian	14	4	5	5	23	26	17	-3
Hearts	12	4	4	4	19	17	16	2
Dundee	14	5	0	9	18	25	15	-7
St Johnstone	14	3	4	7	14	20	13	-6
Kilmarnock	14	2	5	7	13	21	11	-8
Aberdeen	14	1	3	10	14	45	6	-31

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE - ROUND NINE

ADELAIDE FORCE v FOOTBALL KINGZ

1	Vilson Knezevic	1	Michael Utting
2	Ivan Zelic	2	Che Bunce
3	Alex Tobin	3	Riki Van Steeden
4	Carlo Talladira	4	Fabio Macolino
5	Damian Mori	5	Jonathon Perry
6	Carl Veart	6	Marcus Stergiopoulos
7	Nick Sabljak	7	Wynton Rufer
8	Aurelio Vidmar	8	Chris Jackson
9	Nathan Day	9	Fred de Jong
10	John Fusco	10	Dino Mennillo
11	Michael Cartwright	11	Robbie Middleby
12	Louis Brain	12	Harry Ngata
13	Matthew Kemp	13	Levent Osman
14	Angelo Costanzo	14	Batrum Suri
15	Bradley Hassell	15	Ivan Vicelich
16	Vilson Knezevic	16	Lee Jones
17	Dong Ki Kim	17	Maciel Edmilson
18	Jonathan Lihou	18	Stuart Riddle
19		19	Leigh Kenyon
20		20	Jason Batty
21		21	David Moya
22		22	Aaron Silva
23		23	Simon Eaddy

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium - Friday 26 November 8.00PM
 Head to Head: Played N/A
 Last Week: Force 1-1 away draw with Breakers
 Kingz 2-3 away loss to Spirit

CANBERRA COSMOS v NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

1	David Milin	1	Bob Catlin
2	Toplica Popovich	2	Shane Pryce
3	Danny Burt	3	Andrew Roberts
4	Nicholas Purdue	4	Adam Sanderson
5	Jason Polak	5	Todd McManus
6	David Winnie	6	Glenn Sprod
7	Daniel Watkins	7	Travis Dodd
8	Alex Castro	8	Mark Wilson
9	Michael Musitano	9	Chris Tancheski
10	David Arranz	10	John Buonavoglia
11	Brian Hamilton	11	Luke Tomich
12		12	Robert Angievski
13		13	Brad Wieczorek
14	Harry James	14	Greg Owens
15	Glen Kolpak	15	Joshua Ferguson
16	Ilija Prenzowski	16	Vasko Trpceviski
17	Robbie Hooker	17	Paul Wheeler
18	Nikola Mrdja	18	Andrew Harper
19	Geoff Howarth	19	Chad Mansley
20	Grant Barlow	20	Bradley Swancott
21	Scott Conlon	21	Peter Juchniewicz
22	Elliot Zwangobani	22	Glen Moore
23	Ivo De Jesus		
24	Gabriel Gonzalez		
25	Angelo Konstantinou		

Venue: Bruce Stadium - Friday 26 November 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 9 Cosmos wins: 3 Breakers 2 wins: Draws 4
 Last Week: Cosmos 2-2 away draw with Souths
 Breakers 1-1 home draw with Force

GIPPSLAND FALCONS v NORTHERN SPIRIT

1	Bojo Jevdjovic	1	John Perosh
2	Dean Fak	2	Robert Enes
3	Manny Gotis	3	Matthew Langdon
4	Mehmed Durakovic	4	Matthew Bingley
5	Jeff Hopkins	5	Mark Rudan
6	Brian MacNichol	6	Luke Casserley
7	Andy Vargas	7	Robbie Slater
8	Clayton Bell	8	Tony Perinich
9	Robbie Puca	9	David Seal
10	Sandy Robertson	11	Troy Cranney
11	John Hutchinson	12	Simon Catanzaro
12	Peter Kakos	13	Philip Moss
13	Adrian Savage	14	Shane Lyons
14	Doug Marcina	15	Anthony Faria
15	Jonathon Buhugiar	16	Paul Bilokapic
16	Juan Nilo	17	Paul Wearne
17	Will Hastie	18	Jess Van Stratten
18	Michael Katz	19	Michael Cunico
19		20	Paul Henderson
20		21	Adam Snyder
		22	Elvis Olic
		23	Ryan Griffiths
		24	Jack Sobczyk
		25	Adam Griffiths
		26	Abbas Saad
		27	Ian Crook
		28	Sean Cranney

Venue: Falcons Stadium - Saturday 27 November 1999 7.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 2 Falcons: 0 Spirit wins: 1 Draws 1
 Last Week: Falcons 0-2 away loss to Wolves
 Spirit 3-2 home win over Kingz

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS v SYDNEY OLYMPIC

1	Joey Rayher	1	Jim Kourtis
2	Ivan Jolic	2	Scott Thomas
3	Ante Kovacevic	3	Chris Zoricich
4	Jason Vukadin	4	Peter Tsekenis
5	John Didulica	5	Scott Baillie
6	Mark Silic	6	Ante Juric
7	Dragi Nastevski	7	Zlatko Arambasic
8	Ivan Kelic	8	Marcus Phillips
9	Paul Urlovic	9	Pablo Cardozo
10	Mijo Trupkovic	10	Brett Emerton
11	Murtala Toyin Abbas	11	Chris Kalantzis
12	Lance Plunkett	12	Sebastian Sinozic
13	Paul Magdic	13	
14	Ransford Banini	14	Gabriel Mendez
15	Alex Kriatzoglou	15	Lindsay Wilson
16	Brandon Vassalo	16	
17	Roddy Vargas	17	Paul Kohler
18	Adrian Cervinski	18	John Kyriazopoulos
19	Martin John	19	Nick Carle
20	Zeljko Susa	20	George Bouhoutsos
21	Steven Tillinger	21	Lee Miot
22	Michael Reda	22	Pete Zorbas
23	Hrvoje Matkovic		

Venue: Knights Stadium - Sunday 28 November 1999 6.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 31 Knights wins: 11 Olympic wins: 12 Draws 8
 Last Week: Knights 1-6 away loss to Glory
 Olympic 2-1 home win over Marconi

MARCONI STALLIONS v WOLLONGONG WOLVES

1	Michael Turnbull	1	Leslie Pogliacomini
2	Chad Gibson	2	George Souris
3	Mark Babic	3	Alvin Cecoli
4	Dominic Longo	4	Robert Stanton
5	Pan-Keum Kim	5	David Cervinski
6	Christian Care	6	Matthew Horsley
7	Darren McDonald	7	Paul Reid
8	Zeljko Babic	8	Anthony Surjan
9	Brad Maloney	9	Sasho Dimoski
10	Mike Smith	10	Stuart Young
11	Danny Invincible	11	Scott Chipperfield
12	Buddy Farah	12	Neil Harlock
13	Pierluigi di Gia	13	Noel Spencer
14	Francis Awaritefe	14	Saso Petrovski
15	Harry Karl	15	David Huxley
16	Brendan Ranaud	16	Peter Lahanas
17	David Aceski	17	Esala Masi
18	Paolo Marchesini	18	Chad Bishop
19	Kris Trajanovski	19	Paul Dimech
20	Vlado Zoric	20	Daniel Bertrame
21	Josaia Junior Sauturaga	21	Christian Zelvis
22	Daniel Severino		

Venue: Marconi Stadium - Sunday 28 November 6.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 39 Marconi wins: 19 Wolves wins: 10 Draws 10
 Last Week: Marconi 2-1 away loss to Olympic
 Wolves 2-0 home win over Falcons

PERTH GLORY v CARLTON

1	Danny Milosevic	1	Dean Anastasiadis
2	Robert Trajkovski	2	Dave McPherson
3	Jamie Harnwell	3	Craig Deans
4	Vinko Buljbasic	4	Simon Colosimo
5	Gareth Naven	5	Sean Douglas
6	Scott Miller	6	Andrew Marth
7	Troy Halpin	7	Stuart Slater
8	Alistair Edwards	8	Mark Atkinson
9	Bobby Despotoski	9	Alex Moreira
10	Kasey Wehrman	10	Lubo Lapsansky
11	Peter Buljan	11	Archie Thompson
12	Jamos Afkos	12	Mike Conroy
13	Dion Valle	13	Steve Martin
14	Edgar Junior	14	John Markovski
15	Con Boutsianis	15	Con Anthopoulos
16	Vas Kalogeracos	16	David Terminello
17	Hamilton Thorp	17	Joe Tricarico
18	John Carbone	18	David Della Rocca
19	Tony Franken	19	Serdar Pir
20	Ivan Ergic	20	Adrian Cagaj
		21	Andrew Packer
		22	Angelo Moutsopoulos
		23	Colin Azzopardi
		24	Joshua Kennedy

Venue: Perth Oval - Sunday 28 November 4.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 4 Glory wins: 2 Carlton wins: 1 Draws 1
 Last Week: Glory 6-1 home win over Knights
 Carlton 1-3 home loss to Power

LIVE TELECAST SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER 1999 7.00PM
 C7 SPORTS CHANNEL 12

LIVE FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER 7.30 PM
C7 SPORTS CHANNEL 12

**PARRAMATTA POWER v
 SYDNEY UNITED**



- 1 John Crawley
- 2 Ray Younis
- 3 Mark Racker
- 4 Velimir Kupresak
- 5 Eddie Bosnar
- 6 Vince Savocca
- 7 Mirko Jurilj
- 8 Nahuel Arrarte
- 9 Mario Jermen
- 10 Ante Moric
- 11 Tom Pondeljak
- 12 Tom Maric
- 13 Matthew Zec
- 14 Kain Rastall
- 15 Aytec Genc
- 16 Joe Moric
- 17 Nick Bosevski
- 18 Steve Bozinovski
- 19 Greg Saric
- 20 Steve Tolios
- 25 Ante Deak
- 30 Brett Hughes



- 1 Andrew Crews
- 2 David Barrett
- 3 Michael Santalab
- 4 Steve Eagleton
- 5 Richard Plesa
- 6 Joe Vrkic
- 7 Jacob Burns
- 8 Walter Ardone
- 9 Mile Sterjovski
- 10 Joel Griffiths (above)
- 11 Steve Berry
- 12 Stephen Laybutt
- 13 Milan Blagojevic
- 14 John Angelucci
- 15 Danny Townsend
- 16 Mark Byrnes
- 17 Danny Kukucka
- 18 Lachlan Campbell
- 19 Matt Thompson
- 20 Barney Smith
- 21 Ahmid Elrich
- 23 John Gibson
- 28 Peter Bennett
- 29 Mike Gibson

Venue: Parramatta Stadium
Friday 26 November 7.30PM

Head-to-Head: N/A

Power:
United
Draws:

Last Week:
Power: 3-1 away win over Carlton
United: 0-0 home draw Strikers

LIVE SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER 7.00 PM
C7 SPORTS CHANNEL 12

**BRISBANE STRIKERS v
 SOUTH MELBOURNE**



- 1 Clint Bolton
- 2 Glenn Gwynne
- 3 Shane Stefanutto
- 4 Andrew Davidson
- 5 Matthew Belli
- 6 Brad Ditton
- 7 Shane Smeltz
- 8 David Pilic
- 9 Paul Foster (above)
- 10 Wayne Srhoj
- 11 Greg Di Losa
- 12 Peter Dwyer
- 13 Stuart McClaren
- 14 Jade North
- 15 Leo Langone
- 16 Peter Grierson
- 17 Jeromy Harris
- 18 Nick Meredith
- 19 Wade Baldwin
- 20 Daniel Duke



- 1 Milan Udvaracz
- 2 Steve Iosifidis
- 3 Fausto de Amicis
- 4 Nick Orlic
- 5 Con Blatsis
- 6 David Clarkson
- 7 Steve Panopoulos
- 8 Vaughan Coveny
- 9 Paul Trimboli
- 10 Michael Curcija
- 11 John Anastasiadis
- 12 Richie Alagich
- 13 Adrian Cuzzupe
- 14 Anthony Magnacca
- 15 Goran Lozanovski
- 16 George Goutzoulis
- 17 Jim Tsekinis
- 18 Robert Liparoti
- 19 Tasos Psonis
- 20 Chris Jones
- 21 Mustafa Mustafa
- 22

Venue: Suncorp Metway Stadium
Saturday 27 November 7.00PM

Head to Head: 17
Brisbane Strikers wins: 6
South Melbourne wins: 9
Draws: 2

Last Week:
Strikers: 0-0 away draw with Sydney United
Souths: 2-2 home draw with Cosmos

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